

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OBESITY IS A NATIONAL THREAT

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, today, Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON and I will deliver a letter to Speaker PELOSI supporting President Obama's request for \$1 billion per year in additional funding for the Child Nutrition Programs. Two hundred nineteen Members of Congress—Republicans and Democrats—joined together in supporting this historic request. The Education and Labor Committee is working on a bill that will meet this request, but we must be sure they have the proper funding to improve access to and quality of our children's school meals. Last week, former Generals Shalikashvili and Hugh Shelton wrote an Op-Ed on how obesity is now a national security threat. They support President Obama's request because it will make our nation healthier and safer. The Senate is already working on their bill. Unfortunately, their bill is less than half of the President's request. We cannot afford to ignore our children's health. A majority of the House believes we need a Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill that meets President Obama's request.

I include in the RECORD the bipartisan letter signed by 219 Members of Congress and the Op-Ed from the Washington Post authored by Generals Shalikashvili and Shelton.

MAY 6, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, We are writing in strong support of reauthorizing Child Nutrition Programs this year. Under your leadership, this Congress has committed to addressing critical economic and health challenges of a generation. The reauthorization of the child nutrition programs is a crucial legislative component to this effort. President Obama has called for a historic investment in these programs in order to respond to two of the greatest child health challenges of our time, hunger and poor nutrition. Respectfully, we request your leadership in assisting in the identification of possible offsets to support President Obama's call for new investments to properly fund these important anti-hunger and nutrition programs.

President Obama included a \$1 billion increase in funding for the Child Nutrition Programs in both his FY 2010 and FY 2011 budgets. This request clearly highlights the importance of and the need to invest in these programs. Nearly one-quarter of children today live in households that don't always have enough food to feed the family. Furthermore, families that struggle to have enough food often also struggle to access healthful food. Poverty exacerbates children's risk of unhealthy weight gain, but poor nutrition affects children's health and well-being across all income levels. Today, nearly one-third of all children are overweight or obese. These challenges to children's health are present in every district across the country and are recognized as critical public health concerns.

No child should have to go hungry and all children should have access to enough food, and the right food, to help them to achieve their potential. The federal child nutrition programs are a critical tool for addressing these challenges. These programs provide children access to nutritious food and meals throughout the year through the National School Lunch program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. These programs fill in critical gaps for families in poverty as well as those who are struggling in this economy. For some children, the meals provided through the child nutrition programs are the only healthy and nutritious meals they will eat each day.

Similarly, the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children serves a unique role for low-income women and their children by providing nutrition education, supplemental foods and services to address nutritional risk. The evidence demonstrates that this program provides for a healthier start in life for children.

Today nearly 45 million individuals are served by these programs. While these programs work, there are millions of low-income children who don't have access to these benefits, and more can be done to ensure that these benefits are of high quality, based on current nutrition science. This Congress can continue to improve on their success; however, improving these programs will require a significant investment.

While we recognize the size of the federal deficit and the need to reduce this deficit, we support proper funding—offset and paid for—that allows for critical improvements in access to and the quality of the Child Nutrition Programs. Chairman Miller is working on a reauthorization that will properly marry improved access and nutrition quality to address the priorities outlined in the President's budget. We are committed to working with him on this effort. To support this effort, we are seeking your assistance in identifying offsets to properly fund these improvements.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to working with you further on this important reauthorization.

Sincerely,

McGovern; Emerson; Grijalva; Farr; DeGette; Pallone; Stark; Richardson; Snyder; Larsen; Carson; McCollum; Pingree; Hastings (FL); Baldwin; Capps; Polis; Clarke; Fudge; Carnahan; Kaptur; Welch; Capuano; Maloney; Ellison; Moore (WI); Loebach; Delauro; Olver; Norton; McDermott; Holt; Filner; Frank (MA); Green, Al; Lynch; McCarthy (NY); Matsui; Grayson; Watson; Wu;

Kucinich; Doyle; Tonko; Chu; Tierney; Pastor; DeFazio; Waters; Woolsey; Boccieri; Shea-Porter; Wasserman; Schultz; Hinchey; Schakowsky; Foster; Blumenauer; Quigley; Rush; Towns; Clay;

Lee (CA); Hinojosa; Serrano; Brady (PA); Bernaldo; Waxman; Michaud; McMahon; Jackson, Jr.; Hill; Doggett; Sires; Oberstar; Titus; Tsongas; Markey (MA); Neal; Sablan; Castor; Bishop (GA);

Gonzalez; Courtney; Wolf; Boucher; Sutton; Cuellar; Braley; Souder; Faleomavaega; Dahlkemper; Brown, Corrine; Ortiz; Reyes; Bishop (NY); Israel; Scott (VA); Conyers; Sánchez, Linda; Van Hollen; Pierluisi;

Schiff; Heinrich; Delahunt; Johnson, Eddie Bernice; Dingell; Davis (IL); Peters; Fattah; Green, Gene; Rodriguez; Davis (CA); Rothman; Cummings; Payne; Lewis (GA); Yarmuth; Herseth Sandlin; Owens; Kind; Weiner;

Berman; Nadler; Rahall; Edwards (MD); Lofgren; Paulsen; Gutierrez; Teague; Speier; Harman; Slaughter; Schauer; Hirono; Moore (KS); Scott (GA); Cao; Kennedy; Watt; Marshall; Kildee;

Berkley; Garamendi; Moran (VA); Thompson (MS); Sarbanes; Higgins; Sestak; Hare; Andrews; Melancon; Jackson Lee; Kilroy;

Velázquez; Boswell; Roybal-Allard; Young (AK); Halvorson; Cohen; Butterfield; Cleaver;

Kilpatrick; Napolitano; Hall (NY); Honda; Arcuri; Altmire; Langevin; Luján; Lowey; Eshoo; Pascarelli; Ackerman; Christensen; Schwartz; Johnson (GA); Kagen; Connolly; Crowley; Ryan (OH); Perlmutter;

Markey (CO); Engel; Rangel; Kratovil; Space; Calvert; Putnam; Hodes; Barrow; Meeks; Stupak; Meek; Etheridge; Price (NC); Salazar; Schrader; Boren; Murphy (CT); Davis (AL); Visclosky;

Lipinski, Sherman; Berry; Costello; Maffei; Murphy (NY); Deutch; Inslee; Ruppersberger; Matheson; McIntyre; Kissell; Sanchez, Loretta; Schmidt; Driehaus; Wilson (OH); Dicks; Himes.

[From The Washington Post, Apr. 30, 2010]

THE LATEST NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT:
OBESITY

(By John M. Shalikashvili and Hugh Shelton)

Are we becoming a nation too fat to defend ourselves?

It seems incredible, but these are the facts: As of 2005, at least 9 million young adults—27 percent of all Americans ages 17 to 24—were too overweight to serve in the military, according to the Army's analysis of national data. And since then, these high numbers have remained largely unchanged.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show obesity rates among young adults increasing dramatically nationwide. From 1998 to 2008, the number of states reporting that 40 percent or more of young adults are overweight or obese has risen from one to 39.

While other significant factors can keep our youth from joining the military—such as lacking a high school diploma or having a serious criminal record—being overweight or obese has become the leading medical reason recruits are rejected for military service. Since 1995, the proportion of potential recruits who failed their physical exams because of weight issues has increased nearly 70 percent, according to data reported by the Division of Preventive Medicine at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

We consider this problem so serious from a national security perspective that we have joined more than 130 other retired generals, admirals and senior military leaders in calling on Congress to pass new child nutrition legislation.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

What children eat and drink during school hours constitutes as much as 40 percent of their daily nutrient intake. Properly managed, the school environment can be instrumental in fostering healthful eating habits among our children.

Researchers from Rice University and the University of Houston noted in the journal *Health Affairs* in March that increasing participation in federal nutrition programs “may be the most effective tool to use in combating obesity in poor children.”

As a nation, we need to take the next step. Our school districts need the resources to offer our children more vegetables, fruits and whole grains as well as products with less sugar, sodium, fat and calories in school cafeterias and vending machines. Yes, this will mean increasing funding for child nutrition programs. But with our nation spending at least \$75 billion a year on medical expenses related to obesity, we think these steps will pay off over the long term.

We urge Congress to pass a robust child nutrition bill that would:

Get the junk food and remaining high-calorie beverages out of our schools by adopting new standards, based on the latest research, for foods and drinks sold or served in our schools. Standards for school meals are 15 years old. Clearly, they need to be upgraded.

Support the administration's proposal of an increase of \$1 billion per year for 10 years for child nutrition programs that would improve nutrition standards, upgrade the quality of meals served in schools and enable more children to have access to these programs.

Develop research-based strategies, implemented through our schools, that help parents and children adopt healthier lifelong eating and exercise habits.

Military concerns about the fitness of our children are not new. When the National School Lunch Act was first passed in 1946, it was seen as a matter of national security. Many of our military leaders recognized that poor nutrition was a significant factor reducing the pool of qualified candidates for service.

Our country is facing another serious health crisis. Obesity rates threaten the overall health of America and the future strength of our military. We must act, as we did after World War II, to ensure that our children can one day defend our country, if need be.

RECOGNIZING HENRY “HANK” PARKER AND HIS HISTORIC CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a lifetime of public service to the people of Connecticut by a lifelong friend to me, to my family, and to the families of our State: Henry E “Hank” Parker.

Born one of seven children in Baltimore, Hank first moved to Connecticut after serving two years in the Army, obtaining a degree from the Hampton Institute in Virginia, and turning down an offer to play with the Harlem Globetrotters. Maryland and Harlem's loss was Connecticut's gain. For the next fifty years, Hank would serve our State ably as an educator, activist, public official and powerful crusader for both social change and fiscal responsibility.

Upon receiving his MS in Education from Southern Connecticut State College, Hank served as Project Director at the First Community School in my hometown and soon became chairman of the New Haven Black Coalition in 1962. Amid the social and political tumult of the ensuing decade, he would become deeply involved in local and community politics, and become known throughout Connecticut as an influential, passionate, and exceptionally keen advocate for social justice.

In 1974, Hank was elected Connecticut State Treasurer, becoming not only just the second African-American to hold the position but the sole fiduciary of the State's then \$3.3 billion pension fund. Among his achievements during his tenure, Hank created Yankee Mac, a \$450 million home mortgage program for the State that emphasized opportunities for urban renewal. He chaired the Governor's Task Force on South Africa investment policies that yielded one of the first model anti-apartheid bills in America. And he chaired the 1977 State Citizen's Committee that recognized Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a State holiday, seven years before Congress followed suit.

After stepping down in 1986—making him the longest-serving Connecticut State Treasurer in over 150 years—Hank became Senior Vice-President of Atlanta/Sosnoff Capital Corporation. In addition, he continued both his advocacy and community service efforts as a member of many important Boards, and as a lifelong member of the NAACP.

Endorsed by such national figures as Paul Newman and Muhammad Ali over the course of a career of good works, Hank has made a profound transformative impact on our State. For almost my entire life, he and his wife of over fifty years, former State Representative Janette Johnson Parker, have been a veritable institution in New Haven, and in my neighborhood of Wooster Square. I thank Hank, Jan, and their children Curtis and Janet for their service to our Connecticut community, and for their years of friendship to my family. Hank, Jan, Curtis, and Janet, congratulations and thank you to you all.

IN HONOR OF MRS. JOYCE E. PERRY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. Castle. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart but great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mrs. Joyce E. Perry. Joyce Perry was a woman who put her faith to work by mentoring young people in her community as a coach and as a teacher. A gifted athlete, devoted educator, and loving wife and mother, Joyce greatly advanced the sport of women's basketball in the state of Delaware.

A native of Milford, Delaware, Joyce was an outstanding student athlete at the University of Delaware. Joyce was a trailblazer—captaining UD's first women's basketball teams and lettering on their first tennis and field hockey teams. She played a major role in the growth of the university's Athletic Program and is revered as one of its most successful coaches.

Mrs. Perry began her college coaching career as head women's basketball coach at Wesley College in Dover, Delaware, but soon returned to her alma mater by becoming UD's second women's basketball head coach in 1978. Joyce led the Lady Blue Hens for 18 seasons, the longest women's basketball tenure in the school's history. Her 266 career victories remain a UD career record for basketball—in both the men's and women's programs.

During Joyce's tenure, the Lady Blue Hens had a record of 266–212, including six-straight winning seasons from 1987 to 1993, three 20-win campaigns, six East Coast Conference (ECC) regular season titles, and three straight ECC Tournament titles. She coached nine all-conference selections, three conference players of the year, and one conference rookie of the year. Her players earned numerous academic awards, and Mrs. Perry was twice named ECC Coach of the Year, once in 1984 (22–4) and again in 1989 (23–6). In 2004, Joyce was inducted into the University of Delaware Athletics Hall of Fame.

I am honored today to recognize Mrs. Joyce E. Perry—a woman of great compassion and of fierce competitive spirit. She will be greatly missed; as a wife to husband Gregg, a former standout football player and current football coach at the University of Delaware, as a mother to sons Rhett and Trey, and as a Delaware athlete, coach, and mentor. Joyce's influence and contributions have reached far and wide, both within and beyond our state; her mark is indelible.

HAITI ECONOMIC LIFT PROGRAM ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. Schakowsky. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to express my strong support for H.R. 5160, the Haiti Economic Lift Program Act of 2010. I would like to thank my colleagues Congressmen Rangel, Levin, and Camp for introducing this important bipartisan legislation, which will expand trade preferences to Haiti in the wake of January's devastating earthquake.

In the immediate aftermath of the January 12 earthquake, we saw images of unimaginable devastation from Haiti, followed by an unprecedented outpouring of international goodwill. Nearly five months after the earthquake, the situation in Haiti remains extremely critical. Thousands of people remain displaced from their homes and livelihoods.

I traveled to Port au Prince in early March, and I was inspired by the hope and courage of the Haitian people, even in the face of unimaginable loss. Even as we continue to work to ensure that medical care, shelter, and sanitation supplies reach Haitians affected by the earthquake, we must also turn our attention to Haiti's future, and help Haitians rebuild a stronger country.

January's earthquake not only damaged individual livelihoods, it demolished Haiti's already precarious economy. This legislation is an important first step toward putting Haiti

back on the road toward economic development. By providing incentives for trade and investment in Haiti's textile sector, this legislation will help to create jobs for Haitians struggling to recover from the earthquake.

I am very grateful to the Committee on Ways and Means for consulting with the domestic industry, listening to the concerns of American manufacturers, and crafting this bill so that it will benefit workers both in Haiti and in the United States. In addition, this bill continues the International Labor Organization's monitoring program, ensuring that the factories benefitting from U.S. trade preferences respect the fundamental rights of their workers.

Mr. Speaker, Haiti faces a long road ahead. On January 11, 2010, Haiti was already the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere; a day later, the nation was left to cope with horrific devastation, loss of life, and trauma.

This bill is one way we can help Haitians rebuild their country and grow their economy. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, on May 4, 2010, I was delayed due to circumstances beyond my control after participating in a hearing of the Committee on Agriculture in Cheyenne, WY. Unfortunately I was not present to vote on H. Res. 1307, H. Res. 1213, and H. Res. 1132.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three votes.

NATIONAL HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of May as National Huntington's Disease Awareness month.

As some of you may know, Huntington's Disease is a genetic, neurodegenerative disease that causes total physical and mental deterioration over a 10 to 25 year period.

It is a rare disease, affecting 30,000 Americans and places another 200,000 at risk of inheriting it from an affected parent. Because it is a genetic disorder, Huntington's Disease profoundly affects the lives of entire families—emotionally, socially and financially.

This devastating disease has no treatment or cure and slowly diminishes an individual's ability to walk, talk, and to reason. Eventually, every person with Huntington's Disease becomes totally dependent upon others for care.

In my home State of California there are more than 117,000 individuals impacted by Huntington's Disease.

Last year, Congressman BILBRAY and I introduced H.R. 678, the Huntington's Disease Parity Act of 2009.

This legislation does two things. First, it directs the Social Security Administration to re-

vise and update the medical criteria for determining disability benefits for people with HD.

The second part of the legislation removes the 2-year waiting period before receiving Medicare benefits. This allows individuals to receive the treatment and care they desperately need.

In honor of National Huntington's Disease Awareness Month, I urge my fellow members of Congress to support H.R. 678 and help families across the Nation receive the critical benefits they need and deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIAN RELIEF SERVICES CHARITIES

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christian Relief Services Charities for their 25 years of making a difference in the world to assist in the alleviation of human suffering, misery, disability, and pain by advancing and improving the welfare of all persons and the international community while preserving native cultures, heritages, customs and beliefs.

Christian Relief Services, celebrating their 25th anniversary, oversees and guides a family of nonprofits. It is considered to be among the top charities in the country and is one of the original accredited charities allowed to display the Better Business Bureau Charity Seal on all of its publications.

Americans Helping Americans builds and strengthens American Communities. It provides vital transitional housing to the homeless and victims of domestic violence in Virginia, and supports programs assisting the needy in a number of states, primarily in Appalachia, with emergency assistance, food, new shoes, blankets, winter coats, home repair, school supplies and efforts of self-sufficiency, assisting approximately 100,000 individuals. It provides affordable housing assistance to low and very low income working families located in Arizona, Kansas, Texas, Ohio and Virginia, and permanent housing for the homeless and chronically mentally ill adults in three group homes that the organization owns, located in Fairfax County.

Running Strong for American Indian Youth and the Cheyenne River Youth Project, provide financial, technical and administrative support to their many programs assisting American Indian families across the nation on and off reservations. They help fund water development, food pantries, youth enrichment programs, shelter, utilities assistance, emergency assistance, food, new shoes, winter coats, home repair, school supplies and supports efforts at self-sufficiency, promoting positive change to 200,000 individuals.

Bread and Water for Africa works with community-based grassroots organizations in Africa to provide basic necessities such as food, water, shelter, medical care, education and vocational training, lifting the despairing, wiping away sparse tears of the children, feeding the malnourished, changing sorrow into hope and benefiting hundreds of communities and many hundreds of thousands of people throughout Africa.

Christian Relief Services Charities has always been there with emergency assistance when the need is the greatest. Recently, they met the huge challenge of the earthquake in Haiti by quickly donating life-saving relief supplies. At a time of economic instability, it is comforting to know that their services serve the 8th Congressional District and beyond.

I am proud to salute the efforts of the staff, volunteers and the board of directors of Christian Relief Services Charities for their outstanding charitable work for a quarter of a century.

HONORING MRS. RAMONA HATFIELD

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Ramona Hatfield, a finalist for the 2010 Military Spouse of the Year Award by Military Spouse Magazine. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty to support her fellow military families and deserves our utmost gratitude and respect.

Ramona, who lives in Curtis Bay, worked resiliently to create a spouse club to support the morale and welfare of the Coasties in the Greater Baltimore Area, turning an idea and a handful of volunteers into a program that has benefitted thousands of families. Her work has provided emergent day care for families in crisis, holiday parties for families away from home and scholarships for both spouses and dependent children. Admired and trusted by military commanders, Ramona's colleagues consider her a "go-to" spouse for the things that matter most.

Ramona is instrumental in organizing special care for families in times of crisis. She is working to create a first-of-its-kind facility to provide affordable and reliable childcare for single or dual military families. In addition to coordinating the spouse and dependent scholarships each year, she operates a pantry that has provided free infant and toddler items to 1,500 military families to date.

Ramona's efforts are all the more remarkable considering her responsibilities at home. While caring for her mother, mother-in-law and her own household, Ramona volunteers at her church as a youth minister, belongs to the spouse organization, works full-time and plays an active role in her daughter's high school activities. Her colleagues say that Ramona puts her own needs aside to tend to the needs of others and lives each day to its fullest. Her friends and colleagues describe Ramona as a "ray of sunshine," "trustworthy" and "dependable." She exemplifies the Greater Baltimore Area's Coast Guard Spouse Association motto: unconditional love and support.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Ramona Hatfield. Her compassion and dedication to the Coast Guard community and her family is an inspiration to us all. It is with great pride that I congratulate Ramona Hatfield on her exemplary service to her community and our country.

HONORING BISHOP ISIAH L.
QUALLS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, starting on May 9 Bishop Isiah L. Qualls will be honored by Grace Fellowship Church International in Saginaw Michigan for 40 years of ministry. The congregation is planning to celebrate this milestone over several days.

Born in St. Louis Missouri, Bishop Qualls was ordained at the age of 16 and began conducting revivals. He received bachelor's degrees in business administration and biblical studies and has a master's degree in divinity.

From the beginning he went on to pastor two congregations and conducts conferences and seminars around the world. Bishop Qualls has been blessed by God with talents for Praise and Worship through music and teaching. He has joined his talents with other singers and musicians, appearing in venues across the globe. Among his gifts is a special call to minister to persons working in ministry with a rhema word of healing and refreshment. Together with his wife, Patricia, Bishop Qualls pastors Grace Fellowship Church International and he is the founding Chief Apostle of Global Ministries International Fellowship of Churches providing apostolic covering to ministries throughout the nation and world.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the ability, work and healing of Bishop Isiah Qualls. His ministry has blessed the lives of hundreds of people and he has brought countless converts into the love of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, and I pray that he will continue to bless the community for many, many years to come.

HONORING MR. RICHARD P. MILLER, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF VIRTUA

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard P. Miller for his contributions to our community through his service and commitment to the non-profit Virtua health care system.

Since 1998, Mr. Miller has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Virtua. Mr. Miller's hard work has helped Virtua become an international model for effective healthcare management. Virtua has been recognized twice with the New Jersey Governor's Award for Clinical Excellence and has also been honored with the Leadership Award for Outstanding Achievement by Voluntary Hospitals of America. The non-profit was also the recipient of the 2006–2007 and 2007–2008 Consumer Choice Awards by the National Research Corporation.

Mr. Miller's leadership and service within the communities that Virtua serves is evidenced through his civic and community service affiliations, and his awards and recognitions. Mr. Miller is a board member of the March of Dimes of Southern New Jersey and served as

chairman of the March of Dimes WalkAmerica Campaign from 1996 to 1999. He is a member of the American Heart Association board and served as chairman of the Arthritis Association Walk for Southern New Jersey in 2004 and 2005. Recently, he received the "Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award" from the Boy Scouts of America and has been named a "Person to Watch" by Philadelphia Magazine. In 2008, Mr. Miller was recognized as the Lean Six Sigma "CEO of the Year". He has served on the NJ Healthcare Access Study Commission and the Governor's Committee on Benchmarking for Quality and Efficiency. To add to the overwhelming list of leadership commitments, Mr. Miller is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and serves as a trustee of the National Quality Forum.

Madam Speaker, as President and CEO of Virtua, Richard P. Miller has helped the people of New Jersey by delivering a quality patient experience and a high level of care. I congratulate Mr. Miller on his accomplishments and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

WE NEED AN "ALL OF THE ABOVE" ENERGY STRATEGY NOW

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, last week this Administration announced it would allow the private investment and development of the Cap Wind Energy Project off the coast of Massachusetts.

This is a step in the right direction, toward a real, comprehensive energy plan.

As higher energy prices hit American families, it becomes once again necessary for Congress to take an "all of the above" approach to our energy policy.

It is absolutely essential we continue to utilize our natural energy resources through research, development, and domestic exploration.

The American Energy Act, which I support, encourages clean and renewable sources of energy such as nuclear power, solar, and wind.

It also lowers fuel costs, reduces our dependence on foreign oil, and creates jobs.

We have delayed an "all of the above" energy strategy for too long. Now is the time to act.

IN HONOR OF MISS AYNSLEY
TAYLOR INGLIS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Aynsley Taylor Inglis, a Delaware native, who has been selected to compete in the International Ballet Competition this summer. This competition is the most prestigious international competition held in North America, with contestants from around the globe com-

peting every four years in an Olympic style event. This is truly a remarkable accomplishment, as Miss Inglis' selection to this competition distinguishes her as being among the elite professional ballerinas in the world.

As a participant in the International Ballet Competition held in Jackson, Mississippi, Aynsley will represent the First State Ballet Theatre, her home State of Delaware, and the United States of America. She will be one of only six American competitors in a field of 39 professional female ballerinas from around the world. According to the USA International Ballet Competition Executive Director, Sue Lobrano, there were a record number of applicants for this year's event, making it the most competitive year in the history of the prestigious competition.

I commend Aynsley for her hard work and tireless dedication to achieving excellence within her profession, and because of her commitment to excellence, she is truly deserving of this great honor. I have the utmost confidence that Aynsley will make us proud by representing our State and Nation with grace and poise.

COMMEMORATING THE KIDNEY
DIALYSIS SEMINARS KICK-OFF

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Kidney Dialysis Seminars annual 'KDS Kick-Off' taking place on May 6, 2010. KDS is a non-profit organization that provides quality motivational education events for patients on dialysis throughout South Jersey.

I would particularly like to honor KDS for their efforts coordinating this event, and for their tremendous commitment to educating the community about Chronic Kidney Disease and renal disease. The proceeds from the event will support its valuable programs, such as motivational education seminars and cooking demonstrations to encourage patients to adhere to their treatment regimens and enhance their quality of life.

More than 20 million Americans have chronic kidney disease, which if left untreated can lead to End Stage Renal Disease. Complications associated with kidney disease are common, but can be reduced if appropriate education is provided prior to the onset of renal failure. KDS helps people with a number of steps chronic kidney disease patients can take to reduce renal failure and better prepare themselves for dialysis, including making lifestyle changes, learning about renal replacement options, and seeking a compatible kidney donor.

Kidney disease cannot be reversed, but, with appropriate education, its effects can be slowed, improving the quality of life for renal patients. Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding the efforts of the Kidney Dialysis Seminars organization. I am confident that this event will do much to increase support and funding for those whose lives are intimately affected by chronic kidney disease.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DOERBIRDS OF TRAINING SQUADRON TWO

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise and recognize the 50th anniversary of the Doerbirds of Training Squadron Two. Over the years, the Doerbirds have served our country with great distinction and valor. For their commitment to training outstanding student aviators, Training Squadron Two rightfully holds a place in the annals of naval history. For that reason, I am proud to recognize the Doerbirds of Training Squadron Two for their exceptional training and excellent performance over the last 50 years.

The current Doerbirds of Training Squadron Two picked up the torch lit by their predecessors on May 1, 1960. On that day, Training Squadron Two was commissioned with the task of providing primary and intermediate stage flight training to select student aviators from the United States Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and several allied nations. Each year Training Squadron Two graduates approximately 210 student aviators. Logging nearly 2,000 flight hours each month, they have flown in excess of 1,800,000 flight hours and trained more than 19,000 students since their commissioning.

To mark this great occasion, the Doerbirds will be honoring a great man and one of their own. Major Daniel S. Haworth is one of the many distinguished pilots to be a part of Training Squadron Two. Major Haworth was an instructor pilot with the Doerbirds from 1981 to 1985. While Major Haworth logged over 1,000 hours in the T-34C Turbommentor aircraft and was honored by being named instructor of the month four times, his greatest legacy is one that will always be remembered for its level of courage and selflessness in the face of adversity. On October 4, 1987, Major Haworth was flying a night vision goggle shooting exercise in his UH-1N Huey helicopter. During the exercise, the aircraft suffered a tail rotor malfunction. Sacrificing his life, the courage and composure displayed by Major Haworth at the controls are solely attributed for the survival of all the crewmembers on board.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the Doerbirds for going above and beyond the call of duty on their 50th anniversary. To this day, the Doerbirds of Squadron Two continue to provide the highest quality training to student aviators. As they remain resolute and steadfast to doing their part to defend our nation, we must do our part to remember their unwavering commitment with our hearts and minds.

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA CLARK

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Barbara Clark, a pillar of the community in East Palo Alto,

California who passed away at the age of 79 on April 10, 2010, surrounded by those who loved her.

Barbara was born in East Palo Alto, California on March 16, 1931 to Bert and Clara Richards. She attended Ravenswood Grammar School and graduated from Sequoia High School in 1949. She met her husband, Clyde Clark, EN 1 USN in November 1949 and they married on June 17, 1950. They have 3 sons; David, Glenn and Bert.

Barbara Clark was a friend and mentor to many in East Palo Alto. She was involved in school PTA work, joined the Community Association for the Retarded (now Abilities United), and joined P.A.R.C.A./Special Olympics as a volunteer lunch coordinator overseeing the food distribution for 2000 people for their annual Field and Track event over a span of 25 years.

She joined the California Federated Women's Club of East Palo Alto and later joined the Redwood City Club. Her late husband, Clyde joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars and she became a member of Auxiliary Post 2310. Barbara was a member of the East Palo Alto Grange for 43 years. In 1993, Clyde founded the Veterans Employment Committee of San Mateo County and Barbara became a charter member. Other positions she held were President for VFW Post 2310/Auxiliary, Chaplain for VFW District 12 Auxiliary, First Vice President for California Federated Women's Club Past Presidents and Board Alumnae, Treasurer for California Federated Women's Club of Redwood City, Correspondence Secretary for the Veterans Employment Committee of San Mateo County and a member of the East Palo Alto Grange #409.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and accomplishments of Barbara Clark. How privileged I am to have known this magnificent woman and to have called her friend. Her decades of contributions to her community in East Palo Alto stand as lasting legacies of a life lived to the fullest. She will always be missed, but never forgotten.

PRINCESS HIRRIHIGUA DAR CHAPTER OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, The Daughters of the American Revolution Princess Hirihiagua Chapter of St. Petersburg, Florida will celebrate its 100th anniversary this Saturday.

This is a milestone event for the chapter's members who take great pride in fulfilling their motto of "Service to God, Family and Country." Indeed, under the leadership of Regent Gayle Freeland, Vice Regent Deborah Magiolo, Chaplain Sarah Osterholt, Recording Secretary Judith Sallows, Treasurer Patricia Strait, Registrar Diana Clemmons, Historian Norma Sandvig and Librarian Mary Nic Dodd, the chapter has done just that.

Chapter members have made it their priority to support our men and women serving abroad with their cards, letters and packages.

This is a tradition that has carried forth ever since their founding in 1910 as they have supported our service members in every war and overseas conflict since then. In addition to serving our current heroes, they also serve our heroes of the past at our local VA hospitals in Bay Pines and Tampa.

Named for the famous Princess Hirihiagua Indian Mound on Pinellas Point in St. Petersburg, Florida, the chapter members hold firm to the study of the history of our area and our nation. They provide scholarships to high school students going off to college, they hold an American History Contest for students, they honor Good Citizenship Medals to Junior Achievers, and they provide support to DAR schools for underprivileged students in Florida and three other southeastern states.

Madam Speaker, the women of the Princess Hirihiagua Chapter of the DAR are proud of our nation's history and of their service to our nation's heroes and they seek to instill that pride in our next generation of citizens. Please join me in congratulating these women for their 100 years of service to our nation and to our heritage.

WELCOMING HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH ALABAMA TO WASHINGTON, DC

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to commend Honor Flight South Alabama and the 98 World War II veterans this very special organization is bringing to Washington, DC on May 12, 2010.

Founded by the South Alabama Veterans Council, Honor Flight South Alabama is an organization whose mission is to fly heroes from Mobile, Baldwin, Washington, Clarke, Monroe, Covington, and Escambia counties in Alabama to see their national memorial.

Over six decades have passed since the end of World War II and, regrettably, it took nearly this long to complete work on the memorial that honors the spirit and sacrifice of the 16 million who served in the U.S. armed forces and the more than 400,000 who died. Sadly, many veterans did not live long enough to hear their country say "thank you" yet, for those veterans still living, Honor Flight provides for many their first—and perhaps only—opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial, which honors their service and sacrifice.

This Honor Flight begins at dawn when the veterans will gather at Mobile Regional Airport to board a US Airways flight to Washington. During their time in their nation's capital, the veterans will visit the World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and other memorials. The veterans will return to Mobile Regional Airport Wednesday evening, where some 1,000 people are expected to greet them.

Madam Speaker, today's journey of 98 heroes from south Alabama is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank them—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II—for they collectively—and literally—saved the world. They personify the very best America

has to offer, and I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to their selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

I salute each of the 98 veterans who made the trip today. May we never forget their valiant deeds and tremendous sacrifices.

David Allen, Mordecai Arnold, Herman Bailey, Russell Bartlett, Howard Beach, John Benson Jr., Jerry Bethea Sr., Ernest Bishop, Jean Branum, Melvin Brassfield, Janice Britton, Thomas Brown Jr., Bruce Calder, John Carey, Marvin Carpenter, Richard Cassidy, Frederick Centanne, Joseph Champaign, Sidney Chandler, Edmund Clark, Jean Couch Jr., James Crawford, George Davis, Quentin Davis, Roy deDrew, Daniel Dennis Jr., James DeVaney Jr., Kenneth Duffee, Roy Dye, Philip English Jr., Vasco Fast Sr., Joseph Ferguson, Leroy Gilley, Johnnie Green, Joseph Greer, William Gross Sr., Willie Hankins, Curtis Hass, Mary Hirschfeldt, Robert Hohl Sr., William Howell Jr., Herndon Inge Jr., Donald Ingraham, William Johnson, William Jones, William Kirkland Jr., Junius Klein, John Klein, Louis Knowles, John Loper, Elaine Lortie, Robert Lowell, Jack Luffkin, Kenneth Marshall, Robert Marshall, Lindsey May, Dallas McElroy, Oscar McKeithen, John McKinley, Robert Meador Sr., Frank Mitternacht Jr., William Molaschi, Bennie Mullins, Robert Nester, Albert Peck, Richard Peterson, Nelson Richardson, Malcolm Roberts, Archie Robinson, Derrel Rochford, Dorothy Rowell, Ernest Rupert Jr., Virgil Russell, William Russell Jr., Wallace Sabin, Robert Scott, Nina Seacrist, Thomas Shell, Odis Shepherd, Patricia Small, Prentiss Spotswood Sr., Thomas Sutton, William Svetkovich, Melvin Tarver, John Terrell Jr., Winters Thomas, Stanley Thurston, Samuel Vaughn Sr., Dale Wagner, William Waller, Dwight Ward, Audie Waters, John Webb, Louis Williams, Benjamin Williams, Harold Winger, Anton Witte and Paul Wyckoff

CELEBRATING THE CHEROKEE COUNTY AIRPORT

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to commend the remarkable effort and dedication of everyone involved in making the Cherokee County Airport in Georgia the shining jewel of this county's economic development.

Tomorrow's ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new terminal building will be a celebration of twenty plus years of perseverance and unselfish teamwork. This project is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when governments at the state, local, and federal level work together with the people of a community to build a stronger economic foundation.

Due to the hard work of so many, our business community will instantly become more competitive. This new terminal and longer runway will attract corporate travel that will spur new business development and create quality jobs for the good people of Cherokee County.

But none of this would be possible without the tremendous efforts of the Cherokee County Airport Authority under the leadership of Chairman Don Stevens. The tireless work of

Don and all the current and past members of the Airport Authority is the reason this dream has become a reality.

The assistance of many others was also essential to seeing this long process through to completion. I'd especially like to acknowledge the immense support from the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, led by current Chairman Buzz Ahrens and past Chairman Mike Byrd. And of course, we have to mention Scott Seritt and the fine folks at the FAA whose contributions from the federal level made the financing for this project possible.

This wonderful new airport is a clear example of what can happen when we work together to better our community, and the businesses and the people of Cherokee County will surely benefit from this new economic engine. It has been a great privilege to work with the men and women who made this project come to life, and I look forward to our continued efforts to bring greater prosperity to Cherokee County.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PROMPT RESPONSE TO AT- TEMPTED TERRORIST ATTACK IN TIMES SQUARE

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as someone who was actually attending an event in Times Square on Saturday night, I and the thousands of people who were also in the area that evening are profoundly grateful to the two New Yorkers who saw something—and said something.

The swift, coordinated response of New York City and national law enforcement agencies—led by Commissioner Ray Kelly and the NYPD—yielded equally swift results.

I don't hesitate to call them heroes—they were “merely” doing their jobs, thoroughly and well, but that is itself a form of heroism. The NYPD, the FBI, and the Joint Terrorist Task Force all did an incredible job in apprehending this suspect quickly and preventing him from fleeing the country.

These first responders deserve the bipartisan tribute we make here today. But all first responders around the globe should take a share of this honor—without them, many more would die, and too many perpetrators would go free.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL BOB DINGEMAN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise before the House of Representatives to remember Colonel Bob Dingeman.

If you are lucky enough to visit the San Diego, California neighborhood of Scripps Ranch, you are likely to find Colonel Bob Dingeman everywhere. Colonel Dingeman has been a member, and usually the chair, of vir-

tually every community benefit organization in the 40 year history of Scripps Ranch.

His service to country and community began as an enlisted private and served at Hawaii's Schofield Barracks when it came under attack on December 7, 1941. Following the end of World War II, Colonel Dingeman attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, then served in the Philippines, Korea and Vietnam. He flew helicopters with the call sign “Smiling Tiger,” and retired as a highly decorated United States Army Colonel.

Colonel Dingeman, and his wife Gaye, have been married for 65 years and moved to Scripps Ranch in 1976. They have two grown children and several grand and great grandchildren and they are proud of each and every one.

Very seldom does an individual devote such an extended depth and breadth of commitment and expertise to a community. Colonel Dingeman devotes hours of tireless effort to creating and maintaining schools, clean parks and safe streets. He has been honored by Scripps Ranch with a namesake public school—an honor rarely given by any school district to someone still living.

Colonel Dingeman has been a mentor to many community volunteers. With his sage “do-able solutions” advice, he has helped forged new community, business and political leaders who will eventually shape the quality of life for future generations in Scripps Ranch.

Of all his civic accomplishments, Colonel Dingeman takes particular pride in the hundreds of immigrants he has prepared for United States citizenship. He believes that America is the greatest democracy on earth.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Bob Dingeman has been Citizen of the Year in Scripps on multiple occasions and was the initial inductee into the Volunteer Hall of Fame. On the 40th Anniversary of Scripps Ranch, I would like the House of Representatives to join me and honor this outstanding man who is an example to all of us in San Diego on what we can do for our fellow man.

HEMP HISTORY WEEK

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak about Hemp History Week. To celebrate the American heritage of growing industrial hemp, the Hemp Industries Association, Vote Hemp, several American manufacturers, and allied companies and organizations have declared May 17 to May 23 to be Hemp History Week. Throughout the week, people will recognize America's legacy of industrial hemp farming and call for reinstating respect for farmers' basic right to grow industrial hemp.

Industrial hemp was legally grown throughout our country for many years. In fact, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew industrial hemp and used it to make cloth. During World War II, the federal government encouraged American farmers to grow hemp to help the war effort.

Despite industrial hemp farming being an important part of American history, the federal government has banned cultivation of this crop. In every other industrialized country, industrial hemp, defined to contain less than 0.3

percent THC—the psychoactive chemical found in marijuana—may be legally grown. Nobody can be psychologically affected by consuming industrial hemp. Unfortunately, because of a federal policy that does not distinguish between growing industrial hemp and growing marijuana, all hemp products and materials must be imported. The result is high prices, outsourced jobs, and lost opportunities for American manufacturing.

Reintroducing industrial hemp farming in the United States would bring jobs to communities struggling in today's economy, provide American farmers with another crop alternative, and encourage the development of hemp processing factories near American hemp farming.

Industrial hemp is used in many products. For example, industrial hemp is used in protein supplements, non-dairy milk, and frozen desserts. Hemp flour is in breads, crackers, chips, dips, and dressings. Hemp seeds may be eaten plain or added to prepared foods. Additionally, hemp oil is used in a number of cosmetic and body care products, and hemp fiber is used in cloths. Industrial hemp is also present in bio-composite materials used in buildings and automobiles.

I first introduced the Industrial Hemp Farming Act, H.R. 1866, five years ago to end the federal government's ban on American farmers growing industrial hemp. In this time, the industrial hemp industry has grown much larger. Despite its American history, industrial hemp is the only crop that we can buy and sell but not farm in the United States. The federal government should change the law to allow American farmers grow this profitable crop as American farmers have through most of our nation's history. Please cosponsor the Industrial Hemp Farming Act and join me in celebrating Hemp History Week.

**HONORING LAWRENCE AMENDOLA
FOR A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC
SERVICE**

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the retirement of a great friend to Connecticut workers, a longtime family friend to both me and my parents, and a fixture in the life of New Haven, Lawrence Amendola.

A graduate of Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, Larry has spent his entire life helping people and improving our City. After three years with Plymouth Electric and two years in the U.S. Army, Corporal Amendola became the manager of the New Haven municipal Golf Course in 1956. This job would mark the start of what would become Larry's continuing passion—to make the City of New Haven both a better place to work and a better place to play.

After ten years with Community Progress, Inc., where he and I worked together for better housing and urban renewal, Larry returned to work for the City in 1973, when Congress passed the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (C.E.T.A.), a successor to the Works Progress Administration of the New Deal. As a Supervisor, Director of Education & Work Training, and eventually Administrative

Director of C.E.T.A. in New Haven, Larry helped match low-income and unemployed Connecticut citizens with short-term work for public and non-profit organizations.

Even after moving to the City's Parks Department in 1984, where he served as a Recreation Program Supervisor until his retirement last September, Larry continued his commitment to Connecticut's working people. As the longtime President of AFSCME's Local 3144, a position he held for 24 years, he has been a fierce and forthright advocate on behalf of workers and their families. In fact, he was a guiding force as we worked together to forge a management union in New Haven. As any Member of the 3144 can well tell you, Larry is a great fighter for working men and women, and a good man to have in your corner.

To his credit, Larry takes play as seriously as work. He has been active in promoting countless adult and youth sports leagues in Connecticut, and has been involved with the Special Olympics, the New Haven Boys Club, the YMCA & YWCA, A.S.A. Umpires, the Youth Football Association, and dozens of other worthy organizations.

I thank Larry deeply for his service to the City on all of these fronts. Over the course of a long career, he has enriched our lives and our community. And I congratulate him on reaching this milestone. Congratulations, Larry, you have earned it.

HONORING MR. TOM LAMONT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Tom Lamont, a recent inductee into the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. Mr. Lamont currently owns Lamont Oil & Gas Company, an oil and gas exploration company.

As a native Texan, Mr. Lamont has dedicated his career and services to the community with his expertise and knowledge in business, oil and gas, and entrepreneurial endeavors. From a childhood grounded in education as a top priority and through the teachings of his parents, Mr. Lamont learned at an early age that hard work and commitment was a way of life. Growing up, he moved from Illinois to Alabama and back to Illinois in Chicago where he attended Marion Catholic High School and met his high school sweetheart and future wife, Marianne Leslie. Throughout high school, Lamont played football, earning a scholarship to college. Mr. Lamont graduated from South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City with his BA in Geological Engineering in 1977.

Mr. Lamont began his career as a fresh college graduate landing a field operations position in a division of Baker called Exploration Logging. He then accepted another job working for several small independent oil companies over the next five years in Houston. The years of experience and gained knowledge deemed a promotion in Laredo, Texas as area manager for Texas Drilling Company in 1983. For ten years, Mr. Lamont worked day and night with responsibilities to ensure a stable operation. His work ethic and commitment

awarded him a promotion to the company's headquarters in Abilene. By this time, Laredo was home for Lamont—he opened up his consulting company for oil and gas companies and mineral owners. He purchased Howland Surveying Company, which surveyed at that time close to 90 percent of oil and gas wells in Webb and Zapata counties in South Texas. With the help of his wife and ten years of hard work, Lamont brought the company from 4 employees to 50. By 2006, he sold the company to his employees.

While Mr. Lamont never strayed from his career in oil and gas business as current owner of Lamont Oil & Gas, he also took up recent efforts in Laredo, Texas to bring new experiences to the area such as promoting a water park and opening up Laredo's only restaurant, bar and arcade named Hal's Landing. Mr. Lamont is a successful entrepreneur and businessman, hunter, and a family man who has contributed to our community greatly.

I am honored to have had this time to recognize Mr. Tom Lamont, a recent inductee into the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. He has exemplified characteristics of a strong work ethic and business savvy, qualities that earn appreciation.

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
CAREER OF ERNIE HARWELL**

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday May 4th, Legendary Detroit Tigers hall of fame announcer Ernie Harwell died at the age of 92 after a yearlong battle with cancer. Harwell had one of the longest runs of a broadcaster with one major league club, calling Tigers games for 42 seasons.

Harwell had been a big-league announcer for more than 10 years when he joined the Tigers broadcast team in 1960. He called Tiger games for 42 seasons. In 55 seasons of broadcasting big-league baseball, he missed two games, neither because of his health. One was for his brother's funeral in 1968 and the other was for his induction into the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association Hall of Fame in 1989.

His career is woven into the fabric of baseball's history. When he was calling games in Atlanta, he interviewed a young impressive hitter from the Boston Red Sox named Ted Williams. As a young man in Atlanta he met Babe Ruth. He was so excited that he didn't realize he had no paper to get an autograph from Babe. He got his autograph though and that experience was the title of his book, *The Babe Signed My Shoe*.

Madam Speaker, I don't know if summers in Detroit will be the same. Even though Ernie retired, his voice echoed in Tiger Stadium, Comerica Park and anywhere the Tigers were discussed. Throughout his time in the booth Ernie was able to bring Detroiters together even in our most trying times. Many Detroiters of my generation know where we were and who we were with when the Tigers won the World Series in 1968. We were all in different places, but we were all with Ernie. He was with us for every great game and every great Tiger's memory.

CONGRATULATING THE TOWER OF HOPE ON ITS OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tower of Hope on its great accomplishments and express my best wishes for its fourth annual gala.

The Tower of Hope was created following the September 11th terrorist attacks in an effort to bring about hope and happiness to our wounded veterans. Through tireless and devoted work, the Tower of Hope raises funds to train assistance dogs and helps pair them with wounded veterans at no cost to our veterans.

Thousands of those brave service men and women have been seriously wounded in combat, many of them suffering from brain injuries, single and double amputations, and other traumatic wounds. Providing them with assistance dogs helps them live more comfortable and independent lives.

Madam Speaker, the Tower of Hope is dedicated to improving the lives of our veterans. Not only have they helped wounded veterans regain their independence, but they have also spread hope and love among those in need and their families. The Tower of Hope has helped veterans and countless others live normal lives, go to college, and support their loved ones. I have the highest respect for the important work they continue to do and the ideals they convey.

My thoughts and wishes are with them on their fourth annual "Lighting the Path" Gala. This event will help raise awareness of the importance of service dogs for wounded veterans and others with disabilities, and educate people about the benefits of such animals. In addition, I am proud of their upcoming initiative, "100 Dogs in 1000 Days," which will raise funds to train 100 service dogs and thus double the current number of service dogs available to wounded veterans.

Throughout the years, this great nation has been shaped by our willingness to help our neighbors in their greatest time of need. This giving spirit that defines our country is embodied in the Tower of Hope. We owe it to our veterans to support the development of a program that inspires hope and strengthens our tradition of compassion to those who need it most.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Tower of Hope for its outstanding work, as well as all the volunteers and donors who have made these programs possible through their generosity. I wish the Tower of Hope the very best with their upcoming initiatives and stand ready to provide any assistance and will continue to advocate for America's veterans.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize today as a National Day of Prayer. Congress first established a National Day

of Prayer in 1952, and in 1988 set the first Thursday in May as the day for Presidents to issue proclamations asking Americans to pray. From its founding, America has had a rich heritage of affirming religious expression in the lives of its citizens. In fact, many of our nation's leaders make decisions based on a set of moral values, often rooted in their religions or spiritual beliefs. Commander-in-Chief George Washington regularly issued orders for military troops to attend and participate in religious gatherings.

In the midst of the recent health care debate in Congress, I attended Sunday Service at the Capitol. I was particularly moved by the quote that was shared during the service, which was originally given by Chaplain Peter Marshall on the floor of the Senate 63 years ago: "Save us from accepting a little of what we know to be wrong in order to get a little of what we imagine to be right. Help us to stand up for the inalienable rights of mankind and the principles of democratic government consistently and with courage, knowing that Thy power and Thy blessing will be upon us only when we are in the right. May we so speak, and vote, and live, as to merit Thy blessing. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

I found this particularly poignant as I prepared to cast my vote on the health care reform bill. One of many issues within this bill was the role of the federal government in supporting abortion services. I believe federal support for elective abortions is morally wrong, and I know many of my colleagues share similar opinions. Chaplain Marshall's words of caution from so many years ago offered me guidance as I cast my vote against the legislation.

Madam Speaker, the National Day of Prayer continues to stand as a wonderful representation of the religious and spiritual heritage of this great nation. Today I urge Americans to reflect on the significance of prayer in their lives and it is my hope that Americans will always observe the National Day of Prayer with reverence and reflection.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PETER A. REILLY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Peter A. Reilly of Connecticut who passed away on April 26, 2010.

Peter Reilly, or the "Commish" as he was called to those who knew him best, was a giant in the Connecticut Labor Movement. Peter joined the Iron Workers Local #15 in 1951. After 12 years as a member, Peter took on the role of Business Agent in 1963 before retiring as the Financial Secretary-Treasurer and Business Manager after 35 years of tireless service. Peter always stood up for the little guy, and he never wavered in the fight to protect the interests of Connecticut's working men and women.

Peter was also a dedicated public servant. He was a member of the U.S. Army and Merchant Marines, and served our nation honorably during World War II. In his later years he served in a variety of posts on various state boards and committees during the administra-

tions of Governors Dempsey, Meskill, Grasso and O'Neill, carrying his belief in fair wages and standards for the working men and women he cared so deeply about. He later served as Deputy Commissioner and then Commissioner for the Connecticut Department of Labor under Governor Ella Grasso. On a personal note, I had the privilege to meet Commissioner Reilly as a newly elected state representative in 1987 and he was extremely kind and helpful to me. I learned a lot from him and became his friend for life.

While his dedication to his union brothers and sisters was never far from his mind, it was Peter's family that defined his life. While long days on the job often kept him away from home, his beloved wife Ruby, who stood by him for 54 years, including on the day he passed, his son Ed and his daughters Marie and Ruby, were never far from his thoughts. He is survived by them and his sister Marge Stempkowski, as well as six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, the working men and women of Connecticut have lost a great champion, and many like myself have lost a dear friend. I ask that all members join me in honoring the life and service of the "Commish", Peter A. Reilly.

IN RECOGNITION OF ADOPT-A-CAT MONTH OF THE AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the month of June has been designated by the American Humane Association as Adopt-A-Cat Month. The American Humane Association, which is headquartered in Englewood, Colorado, was founded in 1877 and is the only national organization dedicated to creating a more humane and compassionate world by ending the abuse and neglect of children and animals. Established in 1975, American Humane's Adopt-A-Cat Month is a time to bring special attention to the need for—and the benefits of—adopting homeless cats and making a commitment to provide them with a lifetime of loving care.

American Humane's Adopt-A-Cat Month serves as a sobering reminder of this staggering reality: every year, approximately 4 million cats and kittens end up in animal shelters in the United States. Each of these cats is in need of a "forever" home, but tragically, only a small percentage will eventually find one. During Adopt-A-Cat Month, American Humane—in partnership with The CATalyst Council—urges Americans to adopt a homeless cat from their local shelter or rescue group and provide it with a lifetime of love, as well as a lifetime of proper veterinary care. By championing cats as lifelong companions who enrich our lives in countless ways, American Humane is continuing its mission to promote the human-animal bond and combat the crisis of pet overpopulation, during Adopt-A-Cat Month and every month of the year.

IN RECOGNITION OF EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL WINNING THE REGION THREE AWARD FOR THE "WE THE PEOPLE" 2010 NATIONAL FINALS COMPETITION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise the students, their families and educators at East Kentwood High School, located in my Congressional District, who won the Region Three Award during the national finals of the 2010 "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition. The students and teacher participating in this year's program have shown the nation the high standard of talent and education found in West Michigan.

The students studied for months before coming to Washington, DC, for the national finals. The team participated in a mock congressional hearing to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles in the U.S. Constitution. The team won local and state "We the People" contests to qualify for the national competition.

I would like to recognize the following students from East Kentwood High School for their outstanding performance: Tacy Allan, Heather Anderson, Brandon Bilski, Sam Broecker, Austin Calloway, Jessica Dippel, Christian Erwin, Natalie Eyke, Brandon Gafford, Alex Giarmo, Gorgen Grigoryan, Erin Letherby, Ian Macneil, Gwenevere Mueller, Brynley Nadziejka, Julia Nguyen, Taylor Sanchez, and Roger Taylor. Their teacher, Deb Snow, also deserves a great deal of recognition for instilling these students with a passion to learn and providing them with the knowledge they needed to succeed.

I would also like to commend the Center for Civic Education for putting on the "We the People" program and providing resources to schools in my district to help educators teach students about the U.S. Constitution. I cannot overstate how important it is for students to graduate from high school with a comprehensive understanding of how our government works. "We the People" programs should be recognized for promoting civic education, and I am pleased that it has had such a big impact in my district. Also worthy of special recognition are Linda Start and Jim Troost, the state coordinators, and Susan Laninga, the district coordinator who are responsible for implementing the "We the People" program in my district.

I am very proud of the students, their families and teacher at East Kentwood High School for winning the Region Three Award in the "We the People" competition, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them for their achievement.

HONORING RALPH ROSS ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Ralph Ross of Knoxville, Tennessee turned 100 years old

on May 3, 2010. I cannot think of a finer father, Christian, or community leader.

Ralph has had an amazing, blessed life. But despite his personal business success, he remains a humble Christian who devotes his resources, time, and heart to others.

Like many of Ralph's generation, he entered into the military during World War II after completing dental school and served admirably as the head of the dental corps at Camp Blanding, Florida.

While safeguarding the health of his fellow soldiers during the war, Ralph met the love of his life. Frances was the head of the nurse's corps at Camp Blanding, and that chance encounter would result in a 63-year marriage, two children, and four grandchildren.

Ralph served full time from April 1, 1941, to May 9, 1946. Even after the war, he continued his commitment to the United States, serving in the Reserves through the 1960s and retiring a Lieutenant Colonel.

Following his military service, Ralph got into the construction business. It takes a lot of hard work, determination, and a bit of luck to get a successful business off the ground. Ralph did it twice.

After getting much of the contract work for construction at Oak Ridge, a subcontractor ran off with most of his supplies and pay for the work. He was left with a shovel, a bulldozer, and no money.

Never one for self-pity, he started from scratch again by joining his brother in the coal business. And once again, he built a very successful business, selling it in 1982.

Ralph is a shining example of how to live a Christian life. Blessed with security on this Earth, he has never stopped giving to those who are not as fortunate.

From serving as President of the North Side Kiwanis Club in Knoxville, to his activities with Campus Crusade for Christ, YOLK Youth Ministries, Young Life, and Shriners International, Ralph spends his time helping others, especially youth. He is also a generous benefactor to the University of Tennessee.

I graduated from high school with Ralph's son Roger and used to frequently play basketball at his house. I have known Roger Ross almost his entire life.

He describes a bulletin board in their home filled with images of his father's generosity. "You name it, he was in it," Roger says. "Being a Christian was Daddy's life."

As a member of First Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, and then later Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, Ralph served as elder and deacon. He is a very outgoing individual and meeting other people is his favorite thing.

"He always told me not to lie, and he never said a harsh word about anybody. And he would always help people," Roger says. "You ask him for help, or came and asked him for money, and he would give it to you."

Ralph lives by the creed that you always help those in need, even if some folks may try to take advantage of you. "That's life," he always says. "It doesn't mean you stop helping people."

Madam Speaker, Ralph Ross, through his faith in God, continues to live an honorable life. I call his devotion to others to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD and wish him a very happy 100th birthday. Roger Ross says of his father, "He just has people everywhere that love him." I think there is no better definition than that of a good life.

CELEBRATING MOTHERS AND MOTHER'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the actions of the House of Representatives in recognizing the role of mothers. I strongly support H. Res. 1295, which recognizes the significant contributions of mothers in building strong families and communities across the nation.

Madam Speaker, as we quickly approach Mothers Day this Sunday, let us recognize the tireless efforts and contributions to society, the personal sacrifices made, and the wise guidance that mothers provide everyday. The creation of Anna Jarvis, first observed on May 10, 1908, Mothers Day serves as a day of remembrance and reflection on the unyielding love and affection that mothers provide, reminding us that no matter the distance between mother and child, the maternal bond can never be broken.

Madam Speaker, Harry Truman once said "no one in the world can take the place of your mother. Right or wrong, from her viewpoint you are always right. She may scold you for little things, but never for the big ones." Mothers play a central role in the development of our children, raising them with values and morals, inspiring and encouraging them to reach for their dreams. No one among us would be where we are without the influence and encouragement of our mothers. Although there is no salary or compensation for the efforts of mothers, their words, actions, wisdom, and love are priceless.

One of my favorite quotes about mothers states "Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, comrades and friends—but only one mother in the whole world."

I would also like to take a chance to recognize two of the mothers in my life, my mother, Mrs. Christine Callier, the woman who shaped every facet of my being as a child, and my wife Mereda, who is the light of my life. I am blessed to have two beautiful, strong and intelligent women to walk through life with.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution which celebrates the most important profession in the world: motherhood.

HONORING MS. IMELDA NAVARRO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Imelda Navarro, a recent inductee to the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. Ms. Navarro is currently the Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operation Officer of International Bank of Commerce in Laredo, Texas.

Ms. Navarro has contributed to the community of South Texas and the International Bank

of Commerce-Laredo, which has its parent company as the largest minority-owned bank in the country, also headquartered in Laredo, Texas. At the age of 16, Ms. Navarro joined the IBC family as a young file clerk through a program offered through Laredo's J.W. Nixon High School. Even after completion of the program, Ms. Navarro continued to work for the bank with an extended, committed twenty-nine year career. She earned her degree in Accounting and earned her Bachelor of Business Administration at the Laredo State University.

The financial and business industry in Laredo prospered with the work ethic and dedication of Ms. Navarro. In the 1980s and 1990s, the IBC began to grow substantially and Navarro continued to learn all the facets of personal and commercial banking, including responsibilities of financial accounting, human resources and bank operations. From her young beginnings as a file clerk to her multiple duties as Senior Executive Vice President currently, Ms. Navarro provides a unique and excellent perspective for the banking industry and business community.

Most recently, she was recognized as one of the Top Hispanic Women in the United States in 2009. In April 2005, Hispanic Business Magazine recognized Ms. Navarro as one of its outstanding women leaders and as one of the 100 most influential Hispanic women in the country. Navarro also helps the community with her services through Texas and International non-profit and professional organizations such as being a member of the Mercy Ministries Development Council. She has served as part of the Laredo Business Professional Women's Association and Financial Women International. She was former director of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce and served as President of the TAMU Alumni.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Ms. Imelda Navarro inductee to the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. She has shown in her extensive career dedication to the business and financial industry and contributions to the community.

CONGRATULATING STATE
SENATOR BOB KREMER

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Senator Bob Kremer on his induction into the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement for his long and valuable service to agriculture.

The Hall is an organization whose primary purpose is to acknowledge and preserve the records of those citizens of Nebraska who have made outstanding contributions to the well-being of Nebraska's agricultural way of life.

Bob, a farmer and cattle feeder, served in the Legislature from 1999 to 2007. He was Chair of the Agriculture Committee from 2003–2006. Throughout his service to our State, Bob was a leader in policy related to property taxes, grain bonding and warehousing commodity check-offs, and beginning farmer incentives. He is also Chairman of Nebraska 25x25, a coalition dedicated to increasing the use of renewable energy derived from agricultural sources.

I have known Bob for a long time. He has been a tireless advocate not only for Nebraska agriculture, but for America's agriculture industry as a whole. I have always been impressed with his ability to look to the future while holding on to what makes Nebraska's way of life so great. I am anxious to see what he will accomplish next.

I want to thank Bob for his service and once again, congratulate him on this honor.

CONGRATULATING THE CALI-
FORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY, POMONA MEN'S
BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WIN-
NING THE 2010 NCAA DIVISION II
MEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona men's basketball team for winning the 2010 NCAA Division II Men's Basketball National Championship.

On March 27, 2010, the Cal Poly Pomona Broncos defeated the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Crimson Hawks 65–53 in the finals of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, Division II Men's Basketball Tournament in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Broncos shot over 50 percent from the field throughout the tournament and played with an impenetrable defense. The Broncos showed tremendous determination by making it to the championship game for the second year in a row after being narrowly defeated last year by Findlay University's last second three point shot in overtime.

The Broncos finished the 2009–2010 season with 28 wins and 6 losses, the best record in school history. This is a great credit to the players as well as the coaching staff, which includes head coach Greg Kamansky, associate head coach Bill Bannon and assistant coach Damion Hill. The trainers, managers, and staff also deserve praise for their outstanding dedication to helping the Cal Poly Pomona Broncos reach the summit of college basketball success.

The team was awarded many individual accomplishments as well. Coach Kamansky was named the NCAA Division II Coach of the Year from both the National Association of Basketball Coaches and the Division II Bulletin. Broncos senior Austin Swift was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament, averaging 17.6 points per game. Broncos senior Dahir Nasser was named All Elite Eight Choice and scored 12 points in the championship game. The roster of the Cal Poly Pomona Broncos also included juniors Mark Rutledge, Tobias Jahn, and Donnelle Booker; sophomores Matthew Rosser and Dwayne Fells; and freshman Mitchel Anderson, Shaun Norum, and Kevin Ryan.

The Broncos players, coaches, and staff are outstanding representatives of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, one of the finest and most diverse public universities in the country. Cal Poly is the pride of Eastern Los Angeles County and is widely recognized for its applied research programs and hands-on education.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Broncos for playing with great sportsmanship and pride throughout the season, and showing tremendous dedication to their school and appreciation for their fans.

HONORING MICHAEL J. ABATE-
MARCO, U.S. PRESIDENTIAL
SCHOLARS PROGRAM SEMIFI-
NALIST

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent Michael J. Abatemarco and congratulate him as he is named a semifinalist in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program 2010. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program honors some of the most distinguished graduating high school seniors from across the country. Michael is one of 550 semifinalists.

As the valedictorian of Garden City High School, Michael's superior academic achievements include; National Merit Finalist, AP Scholar with Distinction, Rensselaer Medalist, and Siemens Science Contest semifinalist. In addition to Michael's academic successes, his extracurricular activities reflect a well-rounded student and member of the community through his involvement as drum major of the High School Marching Band, third degree karate black belt, principal baritone saxophonist in the wind ensemble and jazz ensemble, and varsity swimmer and diver. Michael also serves on his school's executive board of Peer AIDS Educators.

As a senior member of the Education and Labor Committee, I am truly impressed by Michael's accomplishments. I am pleased to see that Michael not only values his education, but also shows dedication to community service. Michael is an Eagle Scout with Bronze, Gold, and Silver Palms—awards given only to scouts who have demonstrated spirit, leadership and ability. He also serves as captain and organizer of a Swim Across America team to raise awareness and funds for cancer research. Michael will be working with a non-profit organization this summer as part of the Bank of America Student Leaders Program and will be attending Harvard University in the fall.

Madam Speaker, it is with pride and the utmost admiration I offer my congratulations to Michael J. Abatemarco and commend his dedication to education and community service.

HONORING KARIN WALSER

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. KIND, Mr. MARKEY and Mr. TIERNEY to pay tribute to Karin Walser. Karin is the founder of Horton's Kids, a nonprofit that provides comprehensive services to the

children of Washington, DC's Ward 8, improving the quality of their daily lives and nurturing their desire and ability to succeed. For over 20 years, Karin has demonstrated an inspirational commitment to the health and happiness of hundreds of children served by Horton's Kids.

I have known Karin for over 20 years. We both had the honor of serving on the staff of the late Congressman Joe Moakley. Karin founded Horton's Kids in 1989 while working as Congressman Moakley's press secretary. When she stopped at a Capitol Hill gas station late on a Sunday night and several children offered to pump her gas for spare change, the idea for Horton's Kids began to take shape. Karin initially enlisted friends and Congressional co-workers to take a small number of the children on field trips in their personal cars over the weekends. The program next expanded to tutoring sessions on Tuesday nights to encourage academic achievement.

Today, hundreds of children from Anacostia regularly participate in Horton's Kids mentoring and tutoring programs. They also receive dental and eye care, enjoy birthday and holiday celebrations, participate in community service projects, and attend a six-week summer camp dedicated to improving literacy and to preventing the "summer slide." Most importantly, these children benefit from the attention, love, and dedication of over 500 volunteer mentors who help enrich their lives, expand educational opportunities, and offer as much personal attention as possible.

Horton's Kids can help so many kids because of the financial generosity of individuals, corporations, civic groups and foundations. But their greatest resources are the enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers—many of whom work full time on Capitol Hill—and their talented, dedicated staff. Monday and Tuesday night tutoring in Rayburn House Office Building draws Hill staff and professionals from throughout the Washington area. On Wednesdays, a partnership with the U.S. Department of Education brings Horton's Kids to their facilities for a third night of tutoring with Department staff. And in 2008, Horton's Kids added a Wednesday evening academic enrichment program for older students, providing additional mentoring from committed professionals.

Karin Walser has earned numerous well-deserved honors and awards in recent years, including the WJLA-ABC 7 Working Women Award, the Bryn Mawr School Young Alumni Award, and a briefing with former President Bush followed by a Presidential mention as a "social entrepreneur" in a national speech on mentoring. She was chosen as WETA's Hometown Hero for April 2005 and was featured on NBC Nightly News' "Making a Difference." Karin and the inspirational story behind Horton's Kids were also featured in Allison Silberburg's 2009 book, *Visionaries in Our Midst*.

Karin Walser's continued commitment to the children and families of Washington, DC's Ward 8 has transformed hundreds of lives. The children of Horton's Kids are overcoming obstacles and succeeding: graduating high school, finding internships, and applying to colleges. Their growth is a testament to the dedicated efforts of Karin Walser.

Marquitta Jones became a Horton's Kid as a young girl, attending tutoring programs and Sunday field trips. Now enrolled in college, Marquitta credits Karin Walser for her suc-

cess. "Karin cared about me and my education when not many did," Marquitta says. "She's made a difference in our neighborhood where the kids need someone to believe in them."

As Marquitta says, "one person can make a difference to children, and Karin has gone above and beyond."

Madam Speaker, Karin Walser is an inspiration to us all. I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in paying tribute to this remarkable woman.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JUDGE
WILLIAM O. (BILL) ISENHOUR, JR.

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, the late Judge Bill Isenhour, of Mission, Kansas, who died on April 10.

Bill Isenhour was born in Kansas City, Kansas, where he graduated in 1960 from Wyandotte High School. Bill attended Kansas City University, UMKC, where he was student body president, editor of the newspaper, member of the varsity debate team, including being the undefeated regional champions and participation in the National Debate Tournament in West Point in 1964. He graduated with a BA in speech in 1964. He married Karen Kay Peterson on June 26, 1965. While Karen taught school, he attended law school at UMKC, where he was the recipient of the Dean's Merit Scholarship and graduated in the top of his class in 1968 with a J.D. Bill served as law clerk to Chief Judge Arthur J. Stanley, Jr., U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, from 1968–1969.

Bill resigned his clerkship to begin private law practice in Johnson County and practiced law with the firm Soden, Eisenbrandt, Isenhour & Gates—which eventually became Soden, Isenhour & Cox—until 1994. In the early 70s, he served as Municipal Judge in Merriam and Mission, Kansas. In 1994, he was appointed by Governor Joan Finney as District Court Judge in the 10th Judicial District in the State of Kansas, Johnson County. Judge Isenhour served as a civil court judge until 2005, when he became one of the first members of the Johnson County Family Court. He was a member of the Johnson County Bar Association, Kansas Bar Association, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association, Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity, the American Judges Association, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, and was a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He presented at numerous legal education programs, primarily in the area of family law. In 2008, he received the President's Award from the Heartland Mediators' Association for the work in his court encouraging mediation. Bill retired from the bench in the fall of 2008.

Judge Isenhour was a member of St. Michael and All Angel's Episcopal Church in Mission, where he served in numerous roles, including Sunday school teacher, usher, lector, stewardship chairman, delegate to diocesan convention, member of the vestry, Junior Warden and Senior Warden. He was involved in

helping start Breakfast at St. Paul's—a hot-breakfast program for families in KCK—which serves more than 200 persons each week at the church in which he grew up. Judge Isenhour also served on the boards of the Mission Chamber of Commerce, the Milhaven Homes Association, the Saint Michael's Day School and served as secretary of the Johnson County Bar Association.

Bill loved spending time with his family, his friends from church, traveling—particularly to his cabin in the mountains of Colorado, and spoiling his two grandchildren. He is survived by his wife of almost 45 years, Karen Isenhour; his son, Kirk Isenhour and partner Doug Anning of Kansas City, Missouri; his daughter, Stephanie Price and husband Warren of Overland Park; and two grandchildren, Dillon and Katie Price. He is also survived by his three sisters and brother, Diana Patterson (Jeff) of Merriam; Mary Isenhour (Bill Patton) of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Victoria Charlesworth (Jim) of Overland Park; and Philip Isenhour (Ellen Zipf) of Elm Grove, Wisconsin; three aunts, Mary Clark of Kansas City, Kansas, Kathleen Noe of Alexandria, Virginia, and Dee Isenhour of Manteo, North Carolina, along with many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

Madam Speaker, Bill Isenhour was my good friend and former law partner. I join with his extended family and many friends in mourning his passing and paying tribute to his decades of dedicated service to our community.

A TRIBUTE TO JERRY BLAVAT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor rock-and-roll legend, Philadelphia institution, and my good friend, Jerry Blavat. For 50 years, Jerry has been entertaining audiences in Philadelphia and beyond with his love of music and dedication to good times.

Jerry burst onto the Philadelphia music scene as a dancer on the original Bandstand, where he soon became a crowd favorite. He transitioned into radio in 1960, hosting his own rock and roll show, which broadcasted in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey. With the nickname "The Geator with the Heater", Jerry quickly established himself as a landmark on the Philadelphia airwaves. Today, Jerry continues to host radio shows in a variety of formats that can be heard around the world.

In addition to his prominence on Philadelphia radio, Jerry is a well-known cultural icon. Utilizing his prominence in the music scene, Jerry is able to draw attention to a variety of causes. A huge fan of Motown and doo-wop, Jerry continues to showcase the contributions Philadelphia area artists made to rock and roll. In recognition of his outstanding work and contributions to the music world, Jerry was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1998.

Jerry Blavat's long and impressive career showcases his pride in and commitment to his community. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating Jerry's 50 years of entertaining

others, and honor him for the great work he has done for the people of Philadelphia.

HONORING MR. RODNEY LEWIS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Rodney Lewis, a recent inductee to the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. Mr. Lewis is currently President and Chief Executive Office of Lewis Energy Group, L.P.

Mr. Lewis has played an active and outstanding role in the oil and gas industry in the Webb County area. He has contributed his expertise and knowledge to the business community through his tireless efforts towards maintaining and operating his successful company.

Mr. Lewis was born in San Antonio in 1954. As a native Texan, he earned his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Texas A&M University in Laredo in 1976. Mr. Lewis began his professional career as he supervised field production in South Texas for R.L. Burns Corporation and Stampede Energy of Toronto, Canada. In 1982, he purchased his first well. A year later, Mr. Lewis founded Lewis Energy Group, which became a foremost market leader of South Texas in the exploration and production of gas and oil. Through his hands on experience of over twenty-five years, he has gained a reputation as a drilling, completion, and pipeline entrepreneur. With his savvy business skills and know-how in the industry, he sought to build the company upward, attain a stronghold on the market, and buy out the competition resulting in Lewis Energy Group to experience consistent growth over the years. Currently, the company holds approximately 325 employees with over 1,000 wells with a strong presence internationally, as well. Additionally, with the guidance and leadership of Mr. Lewis, the company has never been subject to any Environmental Protection Agency claims and attains an impressive track record of environmental responsibility.

As a local rancher in Webb and La Salle counties of Texas, Mr. Lewis understands and supports local landowners and the community. He is dedicated to excellence and diligent work ethic, which is synonymous to his business and entrepreneurial endeavors. He is also actively involved in serving on the Board of Directors for the National Air and Space Museum. Currently living in San Antonio with his wife and their four children, Mr. Lewis is an avid aviator and war-bird collector in his spare time.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Mr. Rodney Lewis, recent inductee to the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. He is greatly appreciated in the gas and oil industry and has shown dedication and exemplary work ethic to contribute to the business community.

HONORING SPC. JONATHAN M. FRENCH FOR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Spc. Jonathan M. French of Chassell, who, despite significant injuries, prevailed in his service to our country. Spc. French is being honored on May 15 as Grand Marshal in the 5th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade of Thanks in Hancock, Michigan. As the community pays tribute to Jonathan, I ask that the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring his service.

As a high school student at Saginaw Arthur Hill High School in Saginaw, Michigan, Jonathan was an avid hockey player. He continued the sport while attending Michigan Technological University, in Houghton, Michigan, where he earned a bachelor's degree in geological engineering as well as a master's degree in civil engineering. He went on to play hockey with the Portage Lake Pioneers as part of the Great Lakes Hockey League, which won three national championships.

Then, in 2007 Jonathan made the decision to swap hockey skates for combat boots, enlisting in the Michigan National Guard 1431st Engineer Company (Sapper). Although he was eligible for the officer training program, he chose to retain his enlisted status in order to fight on the frontlines. Shortly after enlisting, Jonathan was deployed to Afghanistan with his unit.

While in Afghanistan Jonathan was severely injured when a rocket propelled grenade exploded. Despite extensive internal and external injuries, Jonathan "finished the fight" he was engaged in—a testament to his Yooper fortitude. He returned home, to face a new fight—a fight for his life—successfully undergoing a series of extensive surgeries.

Jonathan is now in vocational rehabilitation and is transitioning back into his position as a civil engineer and project manager with the Baraga Telephone Company. Throughout it all, his wife Margaret, whom he married on June 7, 2003, has been by his side when possible and with him in spirit when distance separated them.

Since his decision to enlist, Jonathan has shown grace, courage, humility and bravery. He has continued to serve in his community, volunteering as a Hunter Safety instructor and mentoring local youth. Serving as Grand Marshal in the Parade of Thanks is a fitting tribute for all that Jonathan has given to his country and his community.

Madam Speaker, the Parade of Thanks is a chance to honor the men and women who have answered the call to serve our nation with honor and with dignity. Without their courage and sacrifices, the United States could not be the great nation we are today. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking Spc. Jonathan M. French on his commitment and service and applaud him on being named Grand Marshal of the Armed Forces Day Parade of Thanks.

HONORING MR. GARY MUCHA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Gary Mucha as he prepares to retire as Senior Vice President of Integration, Information Management and Performance Excellence for BAE Systems.

A native of Buffalo, NY, Mr. Mucha has over 40 years of distinguished experience in the Aerospace and Defense industry including 30 years of general management line operations experience and over 12 years of Corporate Executive Management responsibilities for BAE Systems. As a senior leader in the company during a period of significant growth, he successfully led the integration of over 20 corporate acquisitions. He has also had primary responsibility for a number of critical functional areas, to include Information Management; Information Assurance; Business Performance Measurement; Safety, Health and Environmental Policy Regulations; Business Continuity; Property and Real Estate; and Strategic Procurement.

As a recognized subject matter expert in his field, Mr. Mucha has made many speaking and lecturing appearances on behalf of BAE Systems at both private and public venues. Most recently, this included speeches at Georgetown University and the University of Tennessee as well as the keynote addresses at the Defense Manufacturing Conference and the Governor of Virginia Global Supply Conference.

In all that he has done, Mr. Mucha has demonstrated both a passion for business excellence and an effective translation of his values and views through his work and appearances in both academia and the public and private sectors during his diverse career. Indeed, his high standards and dedication to excellence exemplify the work ethic and commitment to country of his hometown and all of Western New York. As a result of his commitment to both the growth and development of future business leaders within the organization, Mr. Mucha often accepted mentoring roles within BAE Systems.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of this outstanding industry leader. I congratulate and thank Gary Mucha for his many years of service to this nation and wish him a happy retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF SIR MICHAEL BERRY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful public servant, an exceptional individual and a patriotic American on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Sir Michael Berry is a prominent lawyer in Dearborn, Michigan whose venture into politics began in 1948 with the first campaign of G. Mennen Williams, who was running for governor of the

great State of Michigan. Michael was active in Michigan's 16th Congressional District of the Democratic Party, which he joined in 1950. Michael became a precinct delegate, then a member of the Executive Board, and finally a member of the Democratic State Central Executive Committee, a position he retained until 1964.

Under Michael's leadership from 1964 until 1972, the 16th Congressional District became one of the most powerful congressional districts in the State of Michigan, and grew in the 1960s into the largest in the United States. Michael led the district with an extraordinary sense of fairness and discipline.

Michael was one of the best district chairmen the 16th District ever had. He was smart as all get out, hard-working and he had a great sense of policy and public interest. His sensitivity and honesty always kept the district in good shape. In over 50 years in Congress, the 16th District had many good chairmen, in fact, we have never had a chairman I didn't respect, admire and love, and Michael was amongst the best of them.

Michael Berry went on to serve as the long-time chairman of the Wayne County Road Commission. The International Terminal at Detroit Metro Airport and the Michael Berry Career Center in Dearborn were named in his honor. He was awarded the National Order of Cedar by the Lebanese government on October 21, 1993, and was the recipient of the 1998 Ellis Island Medal of Honor—among many other honors.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in wishing Sir Michael Berry, a truly great American, a very happy 90th birthday.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID L. NICHOLS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of my mentor, teacher, and dear friend David Nichols who passed away at the age of 81 on March 11, 2010. David is survived by his four beautiful children . . . Mark of Oregon, Paul of Hillsborough, Beth DeGolia of Alamo, Stu of Los Altos, his beloved seven grandchildren, his daughter-in-laws and son-in-law. His beloved wife Edie preceded him in death.

David Nichols was born in Turlock, California and received his Bachelor of Science and Master's Degree in Business Administration at the University of California at Berkeley. David was the captain of the varsity basketball team at the university and it was also where he met the love of his life and future wife, Edith (Edie) McEwing who was then the Student Body Vice President.

When he graduated from Cal, David took his first job in Contra Costa County as an Assistant Administrative Analyst. This position was followed by a 35 year career of distinguished public service that shaped the lives of residents of Sonoma and San Mateo Counties. In 1955, David went to Sonoma County as an Assistant County Administrator, and in 1968, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors appointed him Chief Administrative Officer. In January 1977, David became the

County Manager of San Mateo County where he remained until his retirement in 1989. There was a point in time when David, as San Mateo County's Manager and his son Paul worked in the same building as a Deputy District Attorney. His son mentioned that even though they worked in the same building they would rarely go out to lunch because David would instead have lunch at home with Edie.

Throughout his distinguished tenure in county government, David was involved in a number of professional organizations, regional governments and regulatory bodies. They include the Association of Bay Area Governments, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Coastal Commission, Bay Vision 2020 Commission and the National Association of County Administrators, where he served as President in 1977. While he was actively participating in all these organizations, David remained a staunch supporter of the University of California Alumni Association and the Bear Backers who support athletic programs. Beside his family, Cal was without a doubt, the other great of his life.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of David Nichols and that we express our deepest condolences to the Nichols family on their loss. I am especially blessed to have had him as a mentor, a teacher, and friend during the many years I served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, with David as County Manager. David Nichols had a deeply held regard for public service. He treated all employees with respect and made sure those who worked with him were always faithful in the execution of the public trust. He lifted all of us to a higher standard and it was his unquestioned integrity that established a 'gold standard' in everything we did in service to the people we represented. We are indeed a better country and a better people because of David Nichols and his extraordinary legacy of public service, as well as a life with values. America was blessed to have him as a son and a servant of the people.

HONORING JOSEPH PETERS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Peters, who is retiring as Director of the United Automotive Worker's Region 1 in Michigan. Our friendship and working relationship spans the many issues important to working Americans—trade, automotive, and health care—we worked on throughout the years, and it is my pleasure to pay tribute to him today.

Mr. Peters first joined the UAW in 1967 and, in the decades since, has been a tireless advocate for automotive workers. Certainly, the past few years have been ones of tremendous challenge for the automotive industry, and Mr. Peters' dedication to preserving the industry, strengthening it for the future, and supporting the jobs of its employees, was steadfast.

A native of Highland Park, Michigan, Mr. Peters began his career with the UAW Local 400 at the Ford Motor Company Mount Clemens Paint Plant. In 1978, he was elected to serve as the midnight shift committeeman

of the Ford Utica Trim Plant and quickly gained recognition for his hard work and dedication: he was elected to the plant bargaining committee in 1981, chairman of the Utica Plant in 1984, vice president of Local 400 in 1985, and president of Local 400 in 1986.

Mr. Peters was appointed to the UAW International Staff in 1988 and served for the next eleven years in the Union's National Ford Department. There, he was responsible for health, safety, benefits and job security issues, and was involved in four national negotiations. He became assistant director of Region 1 in 1999 and was elected the Region's director in 2005.

Despite this accomplished career, Mr. Peters cites as his greatest achievement the "No Child Without Christmas" foundation. This program brings together union workers, community leaders, and businesses to provide clothing, food, and gifts to thousands of homeless, neglected, or abused children each year during the holiday season.

Mr. Peters' commitment to improving the lives of those around him is unyielding. He has a kind heart, an intense focus on what is important to workers and communities, and a loyalty to purpose and people. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Peters on the occasion of his retirement after more than forty years with the UAW and decades of community and public activism. We recognize his many achievements and extend to him and his wife, Ann, and their entire family our best wishes.

TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLION MOM MARCH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the 10-year anniversary of the Million Mom March and to recognize its efforts to put an end to gun violence. This historic event united approximately three-quarters of a million people, making it the largest protest against gun violence. Celebrating its 10-year anniversary, this event sparked a network of activists supporting a national push to achieve commonsense gun laws. For this, I celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Million Mom March, for its efforts in promoting the safety of our communities.

On May 14, 2000, thousands of activists from all parts of the country arrived in Washington, DC, to promote and defend gun safety. The Million Mom March was made possible by those who tirelessly made calls and campaigned for the importance of their cause. The historic turnout of this day proved that the fight for gun safety is strong and will persevere until commonsense legislation is passed.

On that same day as the march, the Washington Post and ABC News reported that out of 1,068 polled adults, approximately one in ten stated they have been shot at and almost one in four had experienced a gun pointed at them. Since the march, approximately 872,247 people have been killed or injured with guns, but there is no telling how many lives were saved through education and advocacy for gun safety. As the Million Mom March celebrates its 10th anniversary, it is a great time

to reflect on the importance of protecting the safety of our community, and educating others on gun safety.

The Million Mom March is an inspiring event in history, and I am immensely proud of all Americans, both past and present, that fight to stop gun violence. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress toward the Million Mom March and the event's ongoing impact on our nation's safety.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague to congratulate the National Urban League for 100 years of service to the people of America.

The Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes was established on September 29, 1910, in New York City. This group later became the Urban League. The group was formed to address the needs of African-Americans escaping the oppressive Jim Crow South. Opportunities in the North were few and far between and de facto segregation had forced many blacks into marginal roles in society. These conditions were still preferable to the state-imposed second-class citizenship of the South. In its first 10 years, after mergers with other groups fighting for gender equality and worker safety, the Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes changed its name to the National Urban League.

Even at its founding, the Urban League was an open and progressive organization. Mrs. Ruth Standish Baldwin, Dr. George Edmund Haynes and Professor Edwin R. A. Seligman of Columbia University all played critical leadership roles in the organization during its infancy.

The organization counseled black migrants from the South, helped train black social workers, and worked in various other ways to bring educational and employment opportunities to blacks. Its research into the problems blacks faced in employment opportunities, recreation, housing, health and sanitation, and education spurred the League's quick growth. By the end of World War I the organization had 81 staff members working in 30 cities.

The Urban League was a crucial supporter of A. Philip Randolph's 1941 March on Washington Movement to fight discrimination in defense work and in the armed services. Additionally, the Urban League hosted, at its New York headquarters, the planning meetings of A. Philip Randolph, Martin Luther King, Jr., and other civil rights leaders for the 1963 March on Washington.

Mr. Speaker, throughout its history, the Urban League has been on the right side of America's most pressing issues. Whether it has been gender equality, workers' rights, or civil rights, America can count on the Urban League to hold it accountable to its promise of equality and opportunity for all citizens. Our country has been forever changed for the better by the efforts of the Urban League. All of our lives have been touched by and benefited

from the work they have done and continue to do.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN LEGION MILTON L. BISHOP POST NO. 301

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize American Legion Milton L. Bishop Post No. 301 of Connellsville for signing the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

In his Second Inaugural Address, Abraham Lincoln urged the country to "care for him who shall have borne the battle." By signing the Armed Forces Community Covenant, the members of Post No. 301 have assumed this high moral obligation. They are committed to improving the quality of life of service members and their families. With this solemn pledge, the members of Post No. 301 recognize the importance of caring for those who put their lives on the line for our country's safety and freedom. It is a great act of patriotism and human decency.

The Connellsville Legion's commitment to service members and their families is truly admirable. I commend Post No. 301 for volunteering its time and efforts to this worthy cause, and I thank the Post for its devoted citizenship.

BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION CON- DEMNING MALAWI'S HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a bipartisan resolution calling on the Government of Malawi to immediately release two prisoners of conscience—Tiwonge Chimbalanga and Steven Monjeza—and to address the pervasive violation of human rights in the country and the criminalization of consensual sexual conduct by adults.

Messrs. Chimbalanga and Monjeza were arrested at their home on December 27, 2009, after holding a traditional engagement ceremony. These two men now stand accused of "committing acts of gross indecency," punishable by up to 14 years in prison under Malawi's law. They have been repeatedly denied bail and subjected to psychiatric evaluation without their consent. While in prison, Mr. Monjeza's health has gravely deteriorated.

In prosecuting two innocent individuals solely on the basis of consensual sexual conduct, the Malawian authorities have severely violated the fundamental human rights of Mr. Chimbalanga and Mr. Monjeza under international law.

Amnesty International has declared these men "prisoners of conscience", and Human Rights Watch and other organizations have called for their immediate release.

The final ruling that will decide the fate of these men is expected on May 18, 2010.

Today, with my colleague from Wisconsin, Representative TAMMY BALDWIN, I call on the

Government of Malawi to immediately release these two individuals and for Secretary Clinton to closely monitor human rights abuses in Malawi.

HONORING MARIA RODRIGUEZ FOR A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate decades of service to the community by a longtime and dear friend, both to me and my husband and to the children and families of New Haven, Connecticut: Maria Rodriguez.

Elected to New Haven's Board of Aldermen in 1976, Maria has the distinction of being the first Hispanic alderperson in the history of our city. But that service was only the beginning of her contributions to our city and state. For as long as I have known her, Maria has given of herself to the people around her, and has worked to make New Haven a richer, more vibrant, and more compassionate community.

Indeed, Maria has spent a lifetime doing so. She began her career in the early 1970s as a trained mental health therapist at the Connecticut Mental Health Center, where she worked day in and day out to improve the experience and the quality of life of Hispanic families in the Greater New Haven area. As my husband Stan, Maria, and I worked on so many local political campaigns then, we became great friends. She helped us to forge many wonderful friendships in New Haven's Hispanic community. She is a tireless worker and a strong ally.

After receiving her Masters from Southern Connecticut State University in 1983, and spending a year as a key and valuable aide to my predecessor, Bruce Morrison, Maria soon moved into full-time social work. For over 25 years, through organizations such as the Connecticut Board of Education, Family Counseling of Greater New Haven, and Latino Youth Development, Inc., she provided therapy to families and students in need of mental health care.

In her off-hours, Maria kept on giving. From serving on the board of the YMCA to tutoring students in her free time, she has always looked for more ways to help those in need and to improve our city. And, now that she has decided to retire from the Connecticut Board of Education, I can only expect she is already thinking of new ways to volunteer her time and her effort.

For that is who Maria is. For decades now, she has continued to infuse our community with her warmth and energy, her caring and compassion. I thank her deeply for her service to the families of New Haven, and for her years of friendship to me. And I congratulate her and her family—her husband Alquilino, her son Paul, and daughter-in-law Bunny—on reaching this milestone. Congratulations, Maria, you have earned it.

HONORING COMMUNITY LEADER
LAURA BINGHAM

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a friend to education and a leader among leaders who hails from my home state of North Carolina. Laura Bingham's service as President of Peace College officially began on July 1, 1998, but her leadership skills were forged and honed many years before. Laura was born and raised in Kings Mountain, North Carolina and is a 1977 graduate of Peace College.

My colleagues in the House are well aware of how seriously we take our basketball in North Carolina and Laura Bingham has solid credentials from some of the top hoops institutions around. She earned her B.A. in Political Science from UNC Chapel Hill, a Master of Arts in Philanthropic Studies from Indiana University and completed coursework at Duke University and North Carolina State University. She cut her teeth in public service by helping lead major health, education, economic, environment and intergovernmental policy initiatives with my friend, former Lt. Governor Bob Jordan. Bingham served as director of a 1983 Governor's Conference on Women and the Economy for Governor Jim Hunt which was considered the first of its kind in the nation that yielded 125 policy recommendations.

Since her appointment as President of Peace College in 1998, student enrollment has increased; the academic curriculum has grown, with Peace offering the first undergraduate major in Leadership Studies in North Carolina and an innovative teacher education partnership with Wake County Schools; and the campus footprint expanded to address the growth and provide enhancements. In 2007, Peace College celebrated its Sesquicentennial and launched a \$30 million fund-raising campaign to boost academic and student endowments and fund new science labs, library renovation, and a campus commons.

Laura plays an active leadership role in civic, business, educational, and philanthropic endeavors, including The Fifty Group and the World President's Organization, and serves as vice chair for the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, as a Director of the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, and in 2008 became the first woman chair of Leadership North Carolina.

As chair of Leadership North Carolina, Laura has helped shepherd the organization through one of the worst financial periods many of us can remember and positioned the program's sustainability for years to come. The measure of a good leader is the legacy they leave behind. Laura Bingham leaves North Carolina with 750 informed and engaged leaders to take the baton and help craft our state's future.

Madam Speaker, at the conclusion of this academic year, Laura Bingham will complete her tenure as President of Peace College and Chair of Leadership North Carolina. We cannot afford a void in leadership at this point in our nation's history and Laura's work at Peace and with Leadership North Carolina has been

focused on engaging, challenging and informing future leaders. I join the Board of Directors of Leadership North Carolina in recognizing Laura for her leadership, vision and determination.

As the proud grandfather to two and soon to be three granddaughters, I am grateful for the example Laura has set for women from every corner of our state and the opportunities she has provided through the gift of education. She is the embodiment of our state's motto *Esse Quam Videri*, to be rather than to seem, and I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Laura Bingham for her service to North Carolina.

HONORING MS. SYLVIA BRUNI

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Sylvia Bruni, a recent award recipient of the Liberty Bell Award in Webb County of South Texas. Ms. Bruni is currently working in the Child's Advocacy Center to pursue community engagement in the defense of our children reaching over 5,000 children.

Ms. Bruni has played an active and valuable role throughout the community through her diligent education efforts and sharpened insights towards children. She has dedicated her professional career to developing students' minds and is also involved with community outreach.

For seventeen years, Ms. Bruni taught English in the United Independent School District system to gifted and talented students. She had the opportunity to engage with thousands of students over the years, all of which were unique and special to her in diverse ways. Admirably, she confronted many difficulties throughout the years, yet handled all situations with leadership, guidance, and care for her students. She used her expertise in the field to customize her teaching to help students with limited English or problems in school. She was also Program Coordinator, Principal of Salinas Elementary, Director of Curriculum and Instruction in the school system. Additionally, continuing her passion for education, Ms. Bruni worked at Texas A&M International University as Director for Special Programs for seven years with an array of responsibilities—such as, implementing the University's first Summer Children's Workshop, which continues today. Ms. Bruni continued her endeavors working for Laredo Independent School District as Executive Director for Planning and Development. She worked extensively on Laredo ISD's Strategic Planning Program, a professional development program based on best practices and its award winning National Science Foundation Math and Science Initiative. Further, the closing of her public school career, she served as Laredo ISD's interim-superintendent.

Throughout the years, Ms. Bruni has been honored and recognized for her work in the community. Recently, she was recognized as Honorary Walk Chair by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Laredo Branch. She

was also awarded the Gary G. Jacobs Award for Higher Education by the League of United Latin American Citizen.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Ms. Bruni, award recipient of the Liberty Bell award. She has been personally invested in the mission of providing life changing experiences for our youth, a strong advocate for children's issues, as well as developing personal relationships with diverse community stakeholders.

HONORING MARY ALTMAN FOR
SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor centenarian Mary Altman of Lake Linden, who has served her county honorably and was a trailblazer for women in the Armed Forces as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army during World War II. Mary is being honored on May 15 as Grand Marshal in the 5th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade of Thanks in Hancock, Michigan. As the community pays tribute to Mary, I ask that the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring her service.

Mary was born Mary Baril on March 10, 1907 in Lake Linden, located in the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. After graduating from Lake Linden High School in 1927, Mary attended nursing school at Hurley Hospital in Flint, Michigan, graduating in 1931.

Her nursing skills were put to good use when Mary joined the U.S. Army in 1942, following in the footsteps of four of her brothers, two who served in World War I and two who served in World War II. In her rank as First Lieutenant, Mary took charge as chief nurse, leading a group of 18 other nurses in tending to the critically wounded, including amputees, during their rehabilitation at a field hospital in California's Mojave Desert. Following three years working with wounded soldiers, Mary was honorably discharged in 1945.

Mary's dedication to the well-being of others continued after leaving the Army. She served as superintendent of a children's home in Flint and cared for her husband Otto through his illness, until his death.

It is fitting that Mary be honored in the Armed Forces Day Parade of Thanks given her service in the U.S. Army and her devotion to helping improve the lives of those around her. Her personal and professional accomplishments over the past 103 years are a testament to trademark spirit and determination found throughout the Upper Peninsula.

Madam Speaker, the Parade of Thanks is a chance to honor the men and women who have answered the call to serve our nation with honor and with dignity. Without their courage and sacrifices, the United States could not be the great nation we are today. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking Mary Altman for her commitment, recognize her service and applaud her on being named Grand Marshal of the Armed Forces Day Parade of Thanks.

HONORING MS. PRISCILLA
PENFOLD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Ms. Priscilla Penfold. Ms. Penfold served her constituency faithfully and justly during her tenure as a member of the Dunkirk Town Council.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Ms. Penfold served her term with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ms. Penfold is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to her today.

RECOGNIZING HERITAGE
FARMSTEAD MUSEUM

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Heritage Farmstead Museum, a living-history museum in Texas' third congressional district which maintains an authentic look at 19th century life on the Blackland Prairie of North Texas.

The museum welcomes more than 30,000 visitors annually to its 4.5 acre working farm complex. Guests get a first-hand, educational look at old farming techniques, a blacksmith shop, an original school house, and the 14-room 1890 farmhouse which serves as the heart of the museum.

Heritage Farmstead's visitors range from classes of local school children learning about prairie life to Girl Scout troops on camping adventures and area residents enjoying the museum's Fall Harvest Festival.

Converted from a private home to a public museum in 1972, the Farmstead has been recognized by the Plano Landmark Association and the National Register of Historic Places. It also boasts a State of Texas Historical marker and was just recently reaccredited by the prestigious American Association of Museums.

This designation makes the Heritage Farmstead Museum one of only two accredited museums in Collin County, 39 in Texas, and only 775 nationwide, a tremendous accomplishment.

I am pleased to recognize this outstanding museum from my own hometown of Plano, Texas before the United States Congress today. For its tribute to our past through the education of our children, our future, I tip my hat to the AAM-reaccredited Heritage Farmstead Museum. Congratulations! God bless you, and I salute you.

HONORING DENNIS AND PHYLLIS
ENGER OF NORTH DAKOTA

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dennis and Phyllis Enger of Portland, North Dakota. Over the past several years Dennis and Phyllis have dedicated a significant portion of their time honoring and giving back to our Nation's heroes.

Dennis decided to take up woodworking in retirement; this led him to begin making walking sticks. Once he had a few sticks completed he decided to have Dan Stenvold, the President of the North Dakota Vietnam Veterans of America and the Mayor of Park River, to bring the completed sticks to Walter Reed to present to injured soldiers on one of his trips to Washington. This initial gift so touched the families of these soldiers that Dennis and Phyllis decided to continue making walking sticks for our returning soldiers.

The dedication of the Engers to giving back to our soldiers is truly remarkable and deserves to be applauded. The care and attention to detail on each of these walking sticks is remarkable; Dennis and Phyllis travel around the state to pick up scrap wood and work for more than 20 hours on each one. Their efforts have been aided by the Boy Scouts in Portland and the North Dakota Vietnam Veterans who have provided help with funds and help sanding the rough walking sticks. These gifts to our wounded soldiers have deeply touched and are deeply appreciated by those that have received them.

The work of individuals like Dennis and Phyllis Enger who work tirelessly and selflessly to honor our veterans is worthy of our highest respect. I stand today to honor their service and to give my thanks on behalf of the people of North Dakota.

HONORING FRANK P. CALESTINO

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize an exemplary federal employee from my district, Frank Caletino. Representing the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Mr. Caletino works as the Deputy Director of Intelligence for the Afghan Threat Finance Cell. This is a unique, interagency effort to disrupt the flow of funding from the Afghan opium trade and other terrorist resources. Afghanistan poses a unique threat to our national security and it will take more than military presence to stabilize the region.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service declared Mr. Caletino to be one of 32 finalists for the prestigious Service to America Medals—or Sammies—in 2010. These awards are granted to outstanding federal employees who have made significant contributions to our nation.

Final selection of eight candidates will be made on September 15, and will also include the Partnership for Public Service's announcement of the Federal Employee of the Year. I

am very proud to call Mr. Caletino one of my constituents and I wish him the best of luck in the final announcement and all of his future endeavors.

ELECTRON BOY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank a special young man, Erik Martin, who helped save the day in Seattle and buoy the spirits of every person who watched or heard of his heroic actions.

Erik, pressed into service by a distress call from Spiderman, transformed into Electron Boy at a moment's notice. He helped release trapped Seattle Sounders FC players at Qwest Field in Seattle, saved a Puget Sound Energy employee stuck in his bucket truck in Bellevue, and then raced back to Seattle to help dozens of people trapped at the top of the Space Needle by his arch nemesis Dr. Dark and Blackout Boy. Electron Boy saved the day and we were all in awe.

Madam Speaker, Erik, Electron Boy, is often unable to get out of bed because of his struggles with liver cancer. No matter how brave and strong Electron Boy is, sometimes even he needs a little more rest. Thankfully, the morning Spiderman needed his special talents, he immediately leapt into action and acted heroically. We can't thank him enough.

Although Electron Boy did most of the work, Madam Speaker, he did have a little help. Therefore, I want to thank the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Seattle Sounders FC, the King County Sheriff's office, the Bellevue Police Department, Puget Sound Energy and everyone else who helped clear the way to make Electron Boy's heroism a reality. Madam Speaker, Erik Martin is a hero and this whole House thanks him for his ability to transform into Electron Boy. Perhaps one day Electron Boy will come to Washington, DC to save lives. Erik commented that his day of heroic actions was the best day of his life. Well, Madam Speaker, I'm thankful Erik had such a great day because it helped millions of others have a great day as well.

HONORING JUDGE RAUL VASQUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Judge Raul Vasquez, a recent award recipient of the Liberty Bell Award in Webb County of South Texas. Judge Vasquez is currently completing his third term as the 111th District Court Judge in Laredo, Texas.

Judge Vasquez is a highly respected and distinguished jurist. He has served the youth of our community and dedicated his sense of justice and fairness to dispose of cases efficiently. His accomplished efforts towards devoting his life to the judiciary have had a great impact and truly benefit the people of South Texas.

As a native Texan, Judge Vasquez was raised in a small historic neighborhood in Laredo. He had a modest upbringing as the sixth child out of seven. In 1972, he graduated from Martin High School and attended Junior College for 2 years. He received his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Houston in 1979. Soon after, he started his career as an Attorney at Law for the Laredo Legal Aid. In 1981, he became the youngest Justice of the Peace elected in Laredo and served Precinct 1 for 5 years while at the Law Offices of Raul Vasquez. Judge Vasquez was elected Judge of the County Court at Law #1, serving for 12 years. He was also a faculty member for the Texas College for New Judges, where he lectured on issues regarding domestic violence. The end of this year, Judge Vasquez plans on retiring, bringing a close to his professional career of over 28 years of being a judge. His leadership and successful career have truly benefited the community and courtrooms with fairness and justice.

Not only has Judge Vasquez held an esteemed and honorable career, he also devotes much of his time to community organizations for helping troubled youth. His passion for helping the youth led him to be the Founding Member of the Laredo Youth Conference, Webb County Angel Wish, and Children's Coalition. He also served on Advisory Boards for Communities in Schools, SCAN, and Child Advocacy. Judge Vasquez has been a Member of numerous organizations such as the Webb County Court Administration of Judges, State Bar of Texas, Laredo Bar Association, and Webb County Auditor's Department. Throughout the past 20 years, he has been recognized on various honors. He was awarded the LULAC Tejano Achiever Award, Law Day Honorary Chair, and Crime Stopper Alfa Award.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to have had this time to recognize Judge Raul Vasquez on his career and community involvement. He has contributed his time, knowledge, and efforts to the judiciary and to community outreach for our youth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall 255, I was away from the Capitol due to commitments in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE BROADCASTING CAREER OF PEDRO GARCIA AND HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Pedro Garcia for his 40 years of service to Connecticut and Puerto Rico as a broadcaster and sports

commentator in these communities. On May 9, 2010, Mr. Garcia will deservedly be recognized by community leaders in Connecticut for his outstanding career and service to others.

Born in Patillas, Puerto Rico, Pedro Garcia comes from a humble and hardworking family, including his parents Irene Cruz and Enrique Garcia, and his fourteen brothers and sisters. While Mr. Garcia's parents and four of his siblings remain in Puerto Rico, the rest of his family lives in my home State of Connecticut.

Pedro Garcia is widely known throughout the world and respected for his professionalism and tremendous talent as a broadcaster and sports commentator. He first endeared himself to the Connecticut region in his work for WEHW in Windsor, CT beginning in 1968 and for WLVI in Hartford, CT in 1970. He then went on to WLIY and WNEL in Puerto Rico before returning to Connecticut to work for WRYM in Newington for the past two and a half decades.

In addition to his broadcasting career, Mr. Garcia has a long history of involvement in the community. He has served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Puertorriquen Parade in Connecticut and worked with former Connecticut State Representative Maria Sanchez to address the needs of the Latino Community. I also commend Mr. Garcia for his important work with other countries, such as Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Peru, where he reported on education, health, sports and politics.

Pedro Garcia has touched many lives and is especially loved for his sense of humor and compassion toward others. I commend him for his outstanding career and service to the Greater Hartford and Puerto Rican communities.

HONORING ELOISE GREENLEE FOR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Eloise Greenlee of Hancock, who has served her country honorably and her community admirably. Eloise is being honored on May 15 as Grand Marshal in the 5th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade of Thanks in Hancock, Michigan. As the community pays tribute to Mary, I ask that the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring her service.

Born in Ohio in 1922, Eloise discovered her love of music at an early age. As a young girl she loved to play the trumpet. Following the United States' entrance into World War II, Eloise enlisted in the U.S. Army on November 9, 1942 and put her musical skills to work. While stationed at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, Eloise was recruited to be a travelling member of the U.S. Army Women's Army Corps Band, playing her beloved trumpet.

The band instilled a patriotic spirit, entertaining those serving in the Armed Forces during the war. Eloise could often be found playing trumpet for the wounded military personnel aboard Red Cross medical ships returning home from the frontlines. She played her music and boosted morale for three years before being honorably discharged on November 9, 1945.

Her time in the Army was just the start of Eloise's service and adventures. In addition to becoming a licensed pilot and writing a book on her travelling experiences, she has volunteered at two local hospitals and continued her love of music forming the Keweenaw Swing Band with her husband Robert. She and Robert have also raised three sons.

The Parade of Thanks is a celebration of those who have served their country. Therefore it is appropriate that Eloise, a woman who has spent the past 88 years celebrating life and service through music, has been given the honor of Grand Marshal.

Madam Speaker, the Parade of Thanks is a chance to honor the men and women who have answered the call to serve our Nation with honor and with dignity. Without their courage and sacrifices, the United States could not be the great Nation we are today. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking Eloise Greenlee for her commitment, recognize her service and applaud her on being named Grand Marshal of the Armed Forces Day Parade of Thanks.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,943,495,066,136.13.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,305,069,319,842.33 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING MR. JOHN J. HURLEY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I am here today to honor the appointment of Mr. John J. Hurley as the 24th President of Canisius College. Hurley, a 1978 alumnus who previously served as the college's executive vice president and vice president for college relations, will be the first lay president in Canisius' 140-year history.

A native of Buffalo, John graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in Kenmore and received a Bachelor of Arts degree summa cum laude in English and history from Canisius College in 1978. Upon graduation from Canisius, John won a full fellowship to the Notre Dame Law School from which he earned a juris doctor degree in 1981. He served as an associate in the Chicago law firm of Keck, Mahin & Cate from 1981-1984 before returning to Buffalo in 1984 to take a position as an associate (1984-1988) and then partner (1989-1997) at Phillips, Lytle LLP.

In 1997, John accepted Father Cooke's offer to become the college's vice president for college relations and general counsel. Since 1997, he has been the senior development and external relations officer responsible for capital campaigns, planned and annual giving programs, grant services, all external and media relations, alumni relations and college publications. In 2007, Hurley was promoted to the position of executive vice president and took on the additional responsibilities for the coordination of the college's senior leadership team, strategic planning, integrated marketing, and legal and compliance issues. Today, John Hurley succeeds the Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J., who is retiring after a 17-year presidency.

It is my pleasure today to distinguish the unprecedented appointment of John J. Hurley. In recognition of his role as the first lay president of Canisius College, I congratulate John and wish him success in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING STATE
SENATOR CAP DIERKS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Senator Cap Dierks on his induction to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement for his long and valuable service to agriculture.

The Hall is an organization whose primary purpose is to acknowledge and preserve the records of those citizens of Nebraska who have made outstanding contributions to the well-being of Nebraska's agricultural way of life.

A rancher and veterinarian by profession, Cap was elected to the State Legislature in 1986 and served as the Chair of the Agriculture Committee for 10 years.

I had the pleasure of serving with Cap in the Legislature, and he is extremely deserving of this honor. I've seen his dedication to Nebraska agriculture firsthand, and his spirit and verve were always an inspiration. He was always there with advice or simply a friendly word of encouragement.

I want to thank Cap for his service and once again, congratulate him on this honor.

HONORING MICHAEL A. ROBBINS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Michael A. Robbins, who served the City of Chicago and the Chicago Police Department for 22 years before his untimely death on September 13, 2008.

A South Side Chicago native, Robbins enlisted in the Navy shortly after graduating high school and was awarded the Bronze Star for his meritorious service during the Vietnam War. His dedication to public service continued when he joined the Chicago Police Department in 1986 and then went on to serve the United States military in the Navy Reserve.

On September 10, 1994, Officer Robbins responded to a call of shots fired in a neighborhood with a high level of gang activity. When he arrived he was fired upon repeatedly, resulting in 11 bullet wounds. Although he made a strong recovery, three of the bullets remained lodged in his heart.

As a result of this experience Michael Robbins became an avid activist urging better gun control laws. Most notably, he spoke on the issue at the 1996 National Democratic Convention and later served as a victims' advocate for Fight Crime: Invest in Kids.

On September 13, 2008, Officer Robbins was found dead in his home as a result of the bullets still lodged in his heart. Michael Robbins will forever be remembered for his dedication to making the City of Chicago and the United States a safer place.

I rise today, representing the City of Chicago, to express my deepest gratitude and sympathy to Officer Robbins's family for his dedication and courageous commitment to our communities. Officer Robbins will forever be remembered for his heroic sacrifice by the addition of his name to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, DC on May 15, 2010.

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL
WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today in support of H. Res. 1149, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 2 through May 8, 2010". I would like to begin by thanking my colleague Rep. BISHOP for introducing this resolution in the House, as quality education should be at the top of our priorities list. I urge my colleagues to support and acknowledge charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and improving and strengthening our public school system.

Charter school programs such as Yes Prep, Harmony, WALIPP, and KIPP deliver high-quality education, challenge our students to reach their potential throughout the United States, and provide thousands of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children. Charter schools improve their students' achievement and can stimulate improvement in traditional public schools as well. These unique, public schools are authorized by a designated public entity that is responding to the needs of our communities, families, and students and promoting the principles of quality, choice, and innovation.

Charter schools take a revolutionary approach in educating our nation's students. Today, roughly 4,700 charter schools are now serving approximately 1,400,000 children in 40 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico this year. Charter schools continually demonstrate their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and their communities. Some charter schools even routinely measure parental satisfaction levels while all give parents new freedom to choose their public school.

Charter schools nationwide serve a higher percentage of low-income and minority students than the traditional public system and deliver a high quality education. Chartering is a radical educational innovation that is moving states beyond reforming existing schools to creating something entirely new. Chartering is at the center of a growing movement to challenge traditional notions of what public education means.

Charter schools have demonstrated their commitment to high academic standards, small class sizes, innovative approaches and educational philosophies. Many parents choose charter schools for their small size and associated safety as charter schools serve an average of 250 students.

I am pleased that over the last 15 years, Congress has provided substantial support to the charter school movement through startup financing assistance and grants for planning, implementation, and dissemination. In addition, these schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the administration, Congress, State Governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the United States.

The intention of most charter school legislation is to: increase opportunities for learning and access to quality education for all students, create choice for parents and students within the public school system, provide a system of accountability for results in public education, encourage innovative teaching practices, create new professional opportunities for teachers, encourage community and parent involvement in public education, and leverage improved public education broadly.

Competition from charter schools has been shown to increase composite test scores in traditional district schools. Furthermore, twice as many registered voters favor charter schools as oppose them. The more people learn about charter schools, the more they like them. Congress must lend its support to these schools and their goals, especially since on average, the funding gap between charter schools and traditional schools is 22 percent, or \$1,800 per pupil. The average charter school ends up with a total funding shortfall of nearly half a million dollars. Yet, 12 studies find that overall gains in charter schools are larger than other public schools; four find charter schools' gains higher in certain significant categories of schools and six find comparable gains to traditional schools. I ask my colleagues for their continued support of charter schools and urge them to support this resolution.

MOTHER'S DAY CENTENNIAL COIN
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my strong support for H.R. 2421, "Mothers Day Centennial Coin Act". First and foremost I would like to thank my distinguished colleague from West Virginia, Representative SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO for introducing this bill. The coins minted as a result of this legislation will be in recognition and celebration of mothers and everything they do for us and signify the 100th

anniversary of President Woodrow Wilson's proclamation in designating the second Sunday in May as National Mother's Day.

The Mother's Day Centennial Commemorative Coin Act, if enacted, would donate half of all surcharges which are received by the Secretary from the sale of coins to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure for the purpose of furthering research funded by the organization and the other half to National Osteoporosis Foundation for the purpose of furthering research funded by the Foundation.

It is of imminent importance that we recognize our mothers have made immeasurable contributions toward building strong families, thriving communities, and ultimately a strong nation. The services rendered to the children of the United States by their mothers have strengthened and inspired the nation throughout its history.

We honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the home and family as the true foundation of the Nation.

Today, thousands of mothers in this country have become active and effective participants in public life and public service, promoting change and improving the quality of life for men, women, and children throughout the Nation.

Mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding, and compassion, while overcoming the challenges of modern society; mothers throughout our country juggle between work, family and the household, all with a smile on their faces.

I want to congratulate and praise all of the mothers in America for all of their hard work. Mothers have a huge influence on our everyday lives; we owe all of our success to them. As the famous American author Washington Irving put it best, "A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts." We can never thank our mothers enough for all the sacrifices they have made for us. I wish all families a very happy Mother's Day this Sunday.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE THOMAS I. VANASKIE ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Judge Thomas I. Vanaskie on his appointment to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Judge Vanaskie was born in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, in 1953.

He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Lycoming College in 1975 where he was a first-team Academic All-American football player. In his senior year, Judge Vanaskie was named outstanding male student-athlete.

Judge Vanaskie attended the Dickinson School of Law where he was a member of the Dickinson Law Review Editorial Staff and was named to the Woolsack Society for outstanding academic achievement. He graduated Cum Laude in 1978.

After law school, Judge Vanaskie clerked for Chief Judge William J. Nealon of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania from 1978 to 1980.

From 1980 to 1994, Judge Vanaskie worked in private legal practice in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He worked in the law firm of Dilworth, Paxson, Kalish & Kauffman until 1992 before leaving to become a principal member of the law firm Elliott, Vanaskie & Riley.

On November 17, 1993 President Clinton nominated Judge Vanaskie to a seat on the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. His nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on February 10, 1994.

Judge Vanaskie was sworn in on March 1, 1994 and served on the U.S. Middle District Court for fifteen years, including as Chief Judge from 1999–2006.

In 2001, Judge Vanaskie began serving on the Information Technology Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. In 2005, he was appointed by the late Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist as Chair of the Judicial Conference Information Technology Committee and served in that position until 2008.

Throughout his career, Judge Vanaskie has continued to give back to his community. He is the former Chair of the Scranton Preparatory School Board of Trustees and a Member of the Scranton Community Medical Center Board of Directors.

On August 7, 2009 President Obama nominated Judge Vanaskie to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 21, 2010 by a vote of 77–20.

Judge Vanaskie was officially sworn-in by Chief Judge Anthony Scirica of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals on April 28, 2010.

He is only the second judge in the 107-year history of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Judge Vanaskie resides in Clarks Green, Pennsylvania, with his wife, the former Dorothy G. Williams. They are the parents of three children, Diane, Laura and Tom.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Judge Vanaskie on this auspicious occasion. His exemplary service throughout his distinguished judicial career demonstrates he is most deserving of this achievement.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1157, "Congratulating the National Urban League on its 100th year of service to the United States."

As a member of the House Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, I take great pleasure in thanking my

colleague, Representative ALCEE L. HASTINGS, for introducing this important piece of legislation that honors this historic civil rights organization.

Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues in recognizing and congratulating the National Urban League for its 100 years of service to historically underserved urban communities across the United States. The National Urban League was originally known as the National League of Black Men and Women. Created in 1910 as a civil rights organization, the National Urban League has since made tremendous gains in equality and empowerment for the African-American community. Throughout the League's 100 years of service the organization has assisted millions of Americans and especially African-Americans in combating poverty, inequality and social injustice.

The National Urban League saw tremendous growth in its partnership with the Federal Government throughout the 1970s. During this time the League began delivering aid to urban areas and making improvements in housing, education, health and minority-owned small businesses. This partnership between the League and the Federal Government revolutionized how the country viewed race relations, challenged the deep discrimination within America's social structure and established the League's reputation as a premier social justice organization.

Since that time, the League has expanded to include 25 national programs, with more than 100 local affiliates in 36 states as well as the District of Columbia.

In my home district in Houston, Texas, the National Urban League has played a strong role in helping the community through outreach programs. The League has sponsored hundreds of such programs over the years from job fairs to Computer Technology courses. These types of educational and community empowerment programs help to improve the quality of life for communities across the United States.

The National Urban League in Houston has also played a strong role in the clean-up and reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. In September 2008, a massive Category 4 Hurricane named Hurricane Ike came ashore and slammed the Texas coastline near my home district of Houston. The National Urban League of Houston has since provided assistance to children, families and senior citizens in the community. I thank the League for its continued support of our community.

Over the past several years, National Urban League has also helped thousands of people weather through one of the worst economic disasters in recent memory. Through the League's Housing and Community Development division the League was able to assist over 50,000 people with mortgage, foreclosure and other similar economic problems in 2009. Furthermore, from this assistance provided by the League's "Foreclosure Prevention" program, 3,000 people were able to avoid filing foreclosure in 2009.

The National Urban League also helps out youth across our nation and promotes childhood education through programs like the League's Education and Youth Development division. Also, programs like the League's "Project Ready" ensure that students will be prepared for the transition from high school to college, or joining the workforce.

The League has also created and outlined 4 new aspirational goals to mark its centennial

anniversary as part of its I AM EMPOWERED campaign. The League has pledged to help achieve the following goals by 2025: Ensure that every American child is ready for college, work and life; ensure that every American has access to jobs with a living wage and good benefits; ensure that every American lives in safe, decent, affordable and energy-efficient housing on fair terms; and ensure that every American has access to quality and affordable health care solutions.

Altogether the work of the National Urban League has been pivotal in improving the lives of millions of Americans through community-oriented programs, civil rights, and leadership opportunities. I stand with my colleagues today in appreciation for the service the League has provided our citizens over the last 100 years and look forward to working alongside the League for the next 100 years.

Since its inception, the National Urban League has been known as an historic civil rights organization dedicated to elevating the standard of living in historically underserved urban communities. The League continues in that legacy today and continuously seeks to empower the citizens of urban and inner-city communities.

I would like to thank and praise the thousands of volunteers, workers and community advocates with the National Urban League who have worked towards the empowerment of their respective communities and the creation of new opportunities.

I ask my colleagues for their support of H. Res. 1157, as well as for their continued support for the National Urban League. Through the continuation of the League's programs over the next 100 years, I am confident that the United States will continue to be a more fair, just and equitable society for all Americans.

I would like to again thank my colleague Representative ALCEE L. HASTINGS for his leadership in introducing this bill as well as for his support of the National Urban League.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1157.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1247, "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 3 through 9, 2010, and throughout the year."

I would like to thank my colleague, Representative STEPHEN F. LYNCH, for introducing this legislation as it is important that we recognize the service and dedication to duty of those in public service here in the United States.

Those involved in Public Service at all levels of government have formed the foundations of our great nation for hundreds of years. From those involved in community education and outreach programs to policy makers at the

State Department our country would not be able to properly function without these praiseworthy individuals. I salute leaders in our government for giving selflessly of their time and energy towards the sustained growth and improvement of our nation.

I would especially like to recognize the men and women who serve in the armed forces. These real-life, modern-day heroes selflessly give of their time—and sometimes even their lives to protect our country against foreign threats. For that we are forever thankful and indebted to them for their service.

I would also like to recognize members of local, state and federal police and fire departments all across the country. Because of the protection and stability they provide our communities we are all able to live safe and healthy lives.

Madam Speaker, officially establishing the week of May 3 through 9, 2010 as Public Service Recognition Week would seek to show our continued support for those in the public sector across our nation. It is important that we recognize these individuals for their service to our country as well as for the role they play in the continued success of our nation.

I stand today with Representative STEPHEN F. LYNCH and other Members of Congress in reaffirming our support and appreciation for those in Public Service.

I ask my colleagues for their support of H. Res. 1247, as well as for their continued support of government employees and public servants. By increasing our support for those in government jobs and promoting the importance of these jobs for our nation, we will ensure that our government remains efficient and productive for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1247.

HONORING ALEJANDRO VALADEZ

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Alejandro Valadez, who honorably served the City of Chicago as a member of the Chicago Police Department for 3 years before his untimely death on June 1, 2009.

At just 27 years of age, Officer Valadez maintained a strong reputation for outstanding performance and professionalism on the job. Within his three short years of serving the Chicago Police Department he was awarded a department commendation and 22 honorable mentions.

A South Side Chicago native, Officer Valadez lived his life with honesty, integrity, and courage never wavering from the task at hand. Alejandro was known to love his job and gladly served the Chicago police force alongside his brother, sister, and expectant girlfriend.

On June 1, 2009, Officer Valadez made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the residents of the Englewood community in Chicago. Shortly after midnight, he and his partner were questioning several residents when a vehicle drove up to them and opened fire. Bullets struck Valadez once in the leg and once in the head. He was later rushed to John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital where he died the next morning.

I rise today, representing with the City of Chicago, to express my deepest gratitude and sympathy to Officer Valadez's family for his dedication and courageous commitment to keeping our communities safe. Chicago and the United States will forever remember Alejandro Valadez for his heroic sacrifice by the addition of his name to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, DC, on May 15, 2010.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PROMPT RESPONSE TO AT- TEMPTED TERRORIST ATTACK IN TIMES SQUARE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1320, "Expressing support for the vigilance and prompt response of the citizens and law enforcement agencies in New York and Connecticut to the attempted terrorist attack in Times Square on May 1, 2010. Their exceptional professionalism and investigative work following the attempted attack, and their consistent commitment to preparedness for and collective response to terrorism."

Mr. Speaker, democrats are focused on keeping Americans safe. This was an excellent example of Federal, State, and local law enforcement and counter-terrorism authorities working together in a coordinated way, and also a good reminder that citizen awareness and responsible action by every day Americans is also a key component in defeating those who seek to harm us. This timely awareness and cooperation resulted in a quick and appropriate response Saturday night, and combined with a sophisticated and aggressive investigation, led to a swift arrest shortly thereafter.

It is prevalent that we live in a dangerous world with ever-evolving threats. The Obama Administration and our State and local law enforcement authorities understand the nature of the threats and are working tirelessly to defeat them. In Congress, we provided state-of-the-art resources, tools, and authority to wage this fight against terrorism and we will continue to do so in the future. Some may want to politicize this very serious attempted attack and dispute whether the suspect should be read his Miranda rights, taken to federal court or given other rights afforded to U.S. citizens.

Because the suspect is an American citizen, even Glenn Beck agrees that the Constitution must be upheld with respect to a citizen's rights in this case.

DEMOCRATIC RECORD [AND CONTRAST WITH
REPUBLICAN APPROACH]

We have tripled the number of our troops fighting on the central front in the war against al Qaeda and their extremist allies in Afghanistan—after years of taking our eye off the ball and under-resourcing this fight. We have successfully stepped up our partnership with Pakistan, which has gone on the offensive for many months in the rugged border region with Afghanistan—after years in which al Qaeda was able to establish a safe-haven.

We have worked with our partners to target al Qaeda's leadership, and to take out key terrorist leaders—increasing the pressure to a

new level. We are responsibly removing our troops from Iraq and ending that war—after seven years of a war that carried enormous costs in lives and resources. We have restored America's leadership and standing in the world, strengthening our alliances and building new partnerships—after years of frayed alliances and growing opposition to our leadership. We have rallied the world around the ambitious goal of securing all vulnerable nuclear material around the world in 4 years, including specific steps and a clear plan for achieving that goal—after years of insufficient action against the gravest threat we face.

We have reset our relations with Russia, including the most comprehensive nuclear arms treaty in 20 years—after relations with Russia fell to a post-Cold War low. We have increased Iran's isolation through our diplomatic efforts, tightening enforcement on U.S. sanctions, seeking broader sanctions through the U.N., and building a broader coalition of countries to stand up to Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons—after years in which Iran went from zero centrifuges to 7000, and strengthened its position in the region.

We are pursuing a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, which would enhance Israel's security—after years in which America was too often absent from the peace process.

We have led an unprecedented international response to the global economic crisis through the G-20, averting catastrophe and putting our economy on the pathway to recovery—after the gravest economic crisis that we've faced since the Great Depression.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1320.

HAITI ECONOMIC LIFT PROGRAM ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5160—the Haiti Eco-

nomic Lift Program Act of 2010. As a co-sponsor of this bill, I strongly believe that it is another important and necessary step to ensure successful recovery and future sustainability in Haiti.

Haiti's long term development is the ultimate concern and goal of all participating donors and supporting organizations. January's earthquake struck Haiti during a time of economic vulnerability. Before the earthquake, Haiti was, by far, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. However, the United States has led the way in securing a stable and prosperous future for the people and government of Haiti.

We have displayed our commitment through trade preference programs including the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as amended by the United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act, the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act of 2006, "HOPE Act", and the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act of 2008, "HOPE II Act". These amendments extended duty-free tariff treatment to certain apparel produced in Haiti and have made an important contribution to Haiti's economic development efforts.

Before the earthquake, Haiti also has among the world's lowest levels of gross domestic product per capita. An estimated 80 percent of the population lived under the poverty line and 54 percent living in abject poverty, according to the CIA World Factbook. According to the United Nations Human Development Report, more than two-thirds of the labor force is believed to not have formal jobs, and just 62.1 percent of adults over age 15 are literate. Additionally, 18 percent of Haitians did not live to the age of 40.

Yet, despite the destruction wreaked by multiple tropical storms in 2008, Haiti's economy and infrastructure-building seemed to be turning a corner in recent years, aided by international support and debt relief programs.

In fact, according to the New York Times, "Haiti was one of only two Caribbean countries expected to grow in 2009. There were hopes of a tourism revival, reinforced by the

announcement that a new Comfort Inn would open there this May. In a sign of its growing structural sophistication, Haiti even recently announced that it would begin collecting better national statistics, with the help of the International Monetary Fund, so that it could better assess and calibrate its economic policies." The earthquake on January derailed this progress.

Today we approved a bill which will help Haiti recover from that devastating earthquake by opening the U.S. market to more clothing from the Caribbean country, sparking growth in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding region. Subsequently, when the bill reaches the Senate, I urge my colleagues to move quickly in support of the bill.

The clothing sector accounted for 75 percent of Haiti's export earnings and employed more than 25,000 people before the January 12 earthquake that killed more than 300,000, and this bill makes it more attractive for clothing manufacturers to invest in new facilities in Haiti by extending and expanding the duty-free access to the U.S. clothing market under two separate programs.

As important as this legislation is, it is only one part of a much larger American assistance response to the earthquake. America will continue to respond with humanitarian assistance to help the people of this struggling island nation rebuild their livelihoods. I send my condolences to the people and government of Haiti as they grieve once again in the aftermath of a natural disaster. As Haiti's neighbor, I believe it is the United States' responsibility to help Haiti recover, and build the capacity to mitigate against future disasters.

Once again I stand in solidarity with the people of Haiti and will do everything in my power to assist them with rebuilding their country and livelihoods. I am proud of our first responders, and pledge that America's long term commitment to Haiti will live up to the standard that the first responders set.